

BRENDA CUMMINS



Brenda Cummins joined the Cleveland Foundation in 2015 as a philanthropic advisor and most recently, as Director, Philanthropic Services, oversees the team that works with donors and organizational fund partners to help them plan and achieve their philanthropic objectives. Her work includes building relationships with multi-generational families and donors to create their own personal mission statement to elevate their

philanthropic giving.

Brenda brings senior level development experience from her previous role as director of Foundation Administration and Community Engagement at Summa Health. In her role, she advanced Summa's priorities through philanthropy and connected the greater community to the work of the organization. Prior work includes her position as a development officer at the Akron Civic Theatre, where she was responsible for all aspects of fundraising for the 1920's atmospheric theatre.

Through her first career path as an Audiologist and her community volunteer work in social services, healthcare and the arts, her strength is connecting people to organizations that make an impact in the lives of our greater community. She holds a master's degree in Audiology from Kent State University and a bachelor's degree in Speech and Hearing from Bowling Green State University.

Brenda is a certified trainer in Family Philanthropy through 21/64. She is a Stokes Fellow through the Advanced Leadership Institute of the Cleveland Leadership Center and a graduate of Leadership Akron. She has served on the boards of many Arts & Culture, Health & Human Services, and Professional organizations and currently serves several area non-profits, including Northeast Ohio Council on Planned Giving, Friends of 91.3 The Summit, Collide:Cuyahoga Falls and the Nightlight Cinema. She also serves as adjunct faculty at the University of Akron.

PENNY FORSTER



Penny Forster is the Director of Community Impact for the Cleveland Guardians.

She is entering her 25th season with the team and in her role oversees team community & philanthropic efforts, MLB community initiatives, community partnerships, youth development, and fundraising for Cleveland Guardians Charities. Guardians community programming impacts more than 15,000 youth across our region each year. She spent her first 20 seasons in Corporate Partnerships working with national & regional partners such as Cleveland Clinic, Nike, Medical Mutual, Sugardale and McDonald's on their marketing partnerships with the team. Penny also serves on the board for the National Kidney Foundation, Vice President of the Baldwin-Wallace Alumni Association and volunteers as a True2U Mentor for 8th graders within the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

KAREN HRDLICKA



Karen leads The Center for Family Philanthropy, a charitable resource center created by Akron Community Foundation to connect our donor advised fund holders and their families with the charitable knowledge and resources of the foundation. Additionally, she connects our citizens to education, experiences and impact investing opportunities, focusing on non-profits in Summit County. Prior to joining the Akron Community Foundation in July of 2020, she spent her career working and volunteering in the non-profit environment. Most of her career has been spent working with older adults and their families, most recently as the CEO of VANTAGE Aging which provides home and community-based services for older adults.

Her undergraduate degree was in Recreational Therapy which is why she fell in love with the Akron Rotary Camp for children with special needs which led to her joining the Rotary Club of Akron. She also has her Masters of Business Administration. Both of her degrees are from Kent State University. She is a licensed nursing home administrator and is certified as a philanthropic advisor through 21/64.

She and her husband, Jeff Jones, enjoy being grandparents, traveling, hiking, and golfing. She enjoys her stress relief of making cards, quilting and wine tasting with friends.

BRITTA LATZ



Britta Latz is the CEO of MedWish Medworks, a Cleveland-based nonprofit organization. MedWish MedWorks' mission is to advance health equity and environmental sustainability. We achieve this by providing essential care, redistributing surplus medical supplies, and connecting medically underserved communities with vital resources in Northeast Ohio and around the world. We bridge the gap between the abundance of supplies in the U.S. healthcare system and the inadequate healthcare access experienced by millions of people around the globe and in Ohio. Further, we provide critical health services and social service navigation to people in our local communities free of charge with no qualifications for care. Our work and mission are unduplicated anywhere in our region and provide a cost-effective, environmentally friendly solution to medical scarcity and barriers to resource access.

MedWish International and Medworks recently merged in September 2024. Britta has been part of the MedWish staff for almost nine years prior to the merge, serving as Executive Director starting in November 2021 and transitioning to CEO of the combined organization this past fall. Prior to becoming the Executive Director, Britta served as MedWish's Director of Business Operations (2015-2018) and Associate Executive Director (2018-2021). While in these prior roles, Britta oversaw MedWish's financials, human resources, gift recording and acknowledgements, international brigades program, grants program, managed the warehouse team and volunteer team, and was also part of strategic planning and major gift planning. As the CEO, Britta oversees MedWish Medworks' merger, strategic direction, and overall operations. In December 2022, Britta was awarded the 2022 Pillar Award for Community Service as 'Nonprofit Executive Director of the Year' from Smart Business.

Before joining the staff, Britta was a volunteer for MedWish, completing internships in 2009 and 2013. Britta has a Master's degree from the University of Kentucky's Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce, with a focus in international development. While at the University of Kentucky she also completed a graduate certificate in global health. She also has a Bachelor's degree in French and Religious Studies from the College of Wooster. While at Wooster she competed for the school's soccer and lacrosse teams, captaining the lacrosse team in her senior year. Britta and her husband have two young children who keep her very active outside of work.