

# PROJECT LEAD

LEADERSHIP EFFECTIVENESS AND DIVERSITY

*Class of 2024*

PRESENTED BY

Florida Blue  
Foundation



United Way  
Emerald Coast

# WHAT IS PROJECT LEAD?

This unique program prepared our graduates for leadership roles on non-profit and public sector boards and committees. Our goal was to build better non-profit boards with a focus on creating a pipeline of diverse board candidates. It is important that we take a stand to ensure our community's boards are representative of the communities we serve, that all voices have an equal seat at the table, and are included in the decision-making process.

Our introduction to board leadership gave our graduates the opportunity to sharpen their skills by learning from local experts who demystified the process of becoming a board member. This program offered six workshops ranging from strategic planning, marketing, finances, and governance responsibilities. We helped them build the tools and connections to become key volunteers within our community partners and other non-profit and public sector organizations in Okaloosa or Walton counties.

**Thank you to our Project LEAD  
sponsors and in-kind supporters:**

*Florida Blue*   
Foundation

 **TheFirst**

Best Gurl, Inc. | Carr, Riggs & Ingram | City of Crestview | Civetta Solutions | Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce  
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Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce | Governance Gal | Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce  
NextHome Cornerstone Realty | Parker Gene Creative | Publix | Walton Area Chamber of Commerce | 1Shot Creations

# CLASS OF 2024



EMPOWERING YOU TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS  
NON-PROFIT BOARD LEADERSHIP

# MEET OUR GRADUATES



## *Carrie Brewer*

**TIDWELL HOMES  
OPERATION MANAGER**

**Skills:** Construction, Entrepreneurship, Fundraising, Military, & Volunteer Management

**Community Issues:** Animals, Children & Youth, Early Childhood Education, Mentoring & Coaching, Veterans & Military

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## *Chelsea Hermon*

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
CURRENT OPERATIONS MANAGER**

**Skills:** Fundraising, Military, & Volunteer Management

**Community Issues:** Children & Youth, Community Improvement, Housing, Hunger, Veterans & Military

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## *CJ Davis*

**1SHOTCREATIONS  
CO-OWNER**

**Skills:** Entrepreneurship, Marketing

**Community Issues:** Arts & Culture, Children & Youth, Community Improvement, Mental Health

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## *Clay Rikard*

**CCB COMMUNITY BANK  
COMMERCIAL LENDER**

**Skills:** Entrepreneurship, Finance or Accounting, General Business, & Strategic Planning

**Community Issues:** Children & Youth, Community Improvement, Financial Literacy, Health & Disabilities, Senior Services

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## *D. Rose Baldwin*

**THE FIRST BANK  
VICE PRESIDENT CONSUMER LENDER**

**Skills:** Construction, Finance or Accounting, General Business, Policy or Advocacy, & Risk Management

**Community Issues:** Community Improvement, Employment & Job Training, Financial Literacy, Housing, Mental Health

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## *Dakota Scott*

**CHILDREN IN CRISIS, INC.  
VOLUNTEER AND EVENT COORDINATOR**

**Skills:** Event Planning, Fundraising, Marketing, Public Relations, & Volunteer Management

**Community Issues:** Animals, Arts & Culture, Children & Youth, Domestic Violence, Veterans & Military

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## *Dana Lee Kane*

**COMMUNITY BANK  
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT**

**Skills:** Finance or Accounting,  
Marketing, Risk Management

**Community Issues:** Children & Youth,  
Community Improvement, Early  
Childhood Education, Financial  
Literacy, Mentoring & Coaching

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## *Danica LaFaire*

**FISH WINDOW CLEANING  
INVESTOR**

**Skills:** Entrepreneurship, General  
Business, Marketing, Strategic  
Planning

**Community Issues:** Animals,  
Community Improvement, Employment  
& Job Training, Financial Literacy,  
Mentoring & Coaching

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## *Denise Creech*

**ELITE SIGNINGS AND EVENTS  
OWNER: REMOTE NOTARY, & WEDDING OFFICIANT SERVICES**

**Skills:** General Business,  
Technology/IT/Cyber

**Community Issues:** Arts & Culture,  
Children & Youth, Employment & Job  
Training, Mental Health, Mentoring &  
Coaching

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## *Dustin T. Cosson*

**WALTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
BUREAU CHIEF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS**

**Skills:** Event Planning, Government Relations, Policy or Advocacy, Public Relations, Risk Management

**Community Issues:** Arts & Culture, Children & Youth, Community Improvement, Domestic Violence, Mentoring & Coaching

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## *Ella Payne*

**REALTY ONE GROUP EMERALD COAST  
AGENT**

**Skills:** Event Planning, Finance or Accounting, Fundraising, General Business, Marketing

**Community Issues:** Animals, Children & Youth, Financial Literacy, Housing, Senior Services

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## *Erika Vasquez*

**COMMUNITY AID ORGANIZATION INC  
PRESIDENT**

**Skills:** Education (K-12 or higher ed), General Business, Legal and Compliance

**Community Issues:** Adult Education, Community Improvement, Employment & Job Training, Financial Literacy

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## *Joshua Bugby*

**CHILDREN IN CRISIS  
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

**Skills:** Entrepreneurship, Fundraising, Marketing, Public Relations, Grant Writing

**Community Issues:** Children & Youth, Housing, Hunger, Mentoring & Coaching, Parenting & Caregiver Support

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## *Laura Triana*

**COMMUNITY AID ORGANIZATION INC  
VICE PRESIDENT**

**Skills:** Entrepreneurship, Fundraising, Public Relations, Volunteer Management

**Community Issues:** Adult Education, Animals, Community Improvement, Health & Disabilities, Hunger

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## *Mady Scott*

**CAN COMMUNITY HEALTH  
PRACTICE ADMINISTRATOR**

**Skills:** Healthcare, Clinical Operations, Laboratory Operations

**Community Issues:** Children & Youth, Community Improvement, Health & Disabilities, Housing, Hunger

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## *Nicole Malley*

**FRANCES ROY AGENCY  
DIGITAL MEDIA SPECIALIST**

**Skills:** Event Planning, Marketing

**Community Issues:** Animals, Arts & Culture, Children & Youth, Community Improvement, Early Childhood Education

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## *Rebecca Picnic*

**COMMUNITY BANK OF MS  
TELLER & CSR**

**Skills:** Entrepreneurship, Event Planning, General Business, Legal and Compliance, Marketing

**Community Issues:** Arts & Culture, Domestic Violence, Financial Literacy, Mental Health, Parenting & Caregiver Support

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## *Regina Y Samy*

**HAMPTON INN AND SUITES & HOME2 SUITES  
BY HILTON DUAL GENERAL MANAGER**

**Skills:** Event Planning, Finance or Accounting, General Business, Human Resources, Volunteer Management

**Community Issues:** Arts & Culture, Community Improvement, Financial Literacy, Housing, Mentoring & Coaching

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## *Sherry Jones*

**ONE HOPEFUL PLACE  
COMMUNITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR**

**Skills:** Entrepreneurship, Event Planning, Fundraising, Marketing, Public Relations

**Community Issues:** Children & Youth, Community Improvement, Domestic Violence, Housing, Mental Health

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## *Sierra Marie Elliott*

**1ST SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING  
SEXUAL ASSAULT & HARASSMENT SPECIALIST**

**Skills:** Government Relations, Military, Policy or Advocacy, Volunteer Management, Strategic Planning

**Community Issues:** Community Improvement, Domestic Violence, Mental Health, Veterans & Military

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## *Stefanie Fontaine*

**BRIDGEWAY CENTER, INC.  
DIRECTOR OF GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT & CCBHC PROJECT  
DIRECTOR**

**Skills:** Governance, Healthcare, Legal and Compliance, Risk Management, Strategic Planning

**Community Issues:** Children & Youth, Early Childhood Education, Health & Disabilities, Mental Health, Parenting & Caregiver Support

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## *Susan Sharpe*

**EXIT REALTY ANCHOR SOUTH  
BROKER**

**Skills:** Education (K-12 or higher ed),  
Entrepreneurship, General Business,  
Healthcare

**Community Issues:** Children & Youth,  
Early Childhood Education, Housing,  
Mental Health, Parenting & Caregiver  
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## *VaTema Ivy*

**AIR FORCE ENLISTED VILLAGE  
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

**Skills:** Event Planning, Fundraising,  
Marketing, Military, Volunteer  
Management

**Community Issues:** Children & Youth,  
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Violence, Senior Services, Veterans &  
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## *Wendy Stevens*

**UNITED FIDELITY BANK  
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**

**Skills:** Education (K-12 or higher ed),  
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Business

**Community Issues:** Employment & Job  
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# THANK YOU!

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Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce | Governance Gal | Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce  
NextHome Cornerstone Realty | Parker Gene Creative | Publix | Walton Area Chamber of Commerce | 1Shot Creations