

Board Member Profiles

Estefania Alves is a school social worker and former teacher in the Boston Public Schools. From 2008–2010, she served as the Mid-Dorchester and Cape Verdean Community Liaison for the late Mayor Menino. As a child, she grew up in the Bowdoin-Geneva area and attended a Family Nurturing Program. She began serving her community as a teen and continues to do so today in various capacities.

Shergul Arshad is a member of DraftKings Corporate and Business Development teams. Prior to DraftKings, Shergul was CEO & Founder of Mondogoal, Europe's first Daily Fantasy Soccer site. Shergul has a BA from Harvard and an MBA from Ross School (Michigan). He has previously worked at Amazon, eBay, and Time Warner and ran digital marketing for AS Roma.

Bob Blake manages the underwriting department for BNY Mellon's mortgage group. He has worked for BNY Mellon for 20 years. Bob is a graduate of Fairfield University, has an MBA from the University of Connecticut, and is a CFA charter holder.

Mary Kate Bluestein taught English literature and administered at the Commonwealth School for close to forty years. She brings to Family Nurturing Center her experience developing programs to support children with learning differences and children dealing with psychological, emotional, or physical challenges.

Janet Boguslaw is Senior Scientist and Senior Lecturer at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University. Her research informs policies and practices designed to increase equity, access to opportunity, and the economic security and well-being of vulnerable populations.

Laura Conway is Director of Human Resources at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. Laura has volunteered for years as a facilitator in Family Nurturing Center's Cape Verdean Nurturing Program.

Taran T. Grigsby (Chair) is Managing Director and General Counsel at Boston Realty Advisors. He is a founding Mentor of Real Men Read, a volunteer organization teaching literacy and life skills to disadvantaged middle-school boys.

Susan Keller is Director of Faculty Real Estate and Brokerage Services at Harvard University. She previously was the Director of Harvard University Housing, comprised of 3,300 apartments in Cambridge and Boston that house Harvard's Graduate Students. She has worked in real estate development, management and brokerage services for 35 years.

Phyllis Menken is a lawyer in private practice and a founding board member of Family Nurturing Center. As a teen mom, she learned the vital importance of parenting support.

Daniel Nakamoto is Executive Director of the Mental Health Association of Greater Lowell. He has held senior level positions in state government and private non-profit organizations. He was the co-founder of Boston Building Resource's Reuse Center and principal in the development of The Captive Advantage.

Jeri Robinson is Vice President of Early Childhood and Family Learning at Boston Children's Museum. She is the developer of the PlaySpace exhibit, (one of the earliest prototypes for early learning family spaces in children's and other museums), founder of the Boston Cultural Collaborative for Early Learning, and co-founder of both Families First Parenting programs and "Countdown to Kindergarten". Jeri is a member of the Boston School Committee.

Ronda Rockett is a Crossfitter and a Strength and Conditioning Coach. She has a BA from Harvard University and an MD from Boston University. Dr. Rockett worked as a Family Physician for 12 years. She has been a volunteer and Rodman Rider since 2011.

Karla Wallace is a financial professional with a background across three industries: Higher Education, Government, and Healthcare. Ms. Wallace has extensive administrative and operational skills, strong business acumen, and the ability to collaborate at all organizational levels. She has been a board member since 2008. Ms. Wallace was born in Costa Rica and grew up in Boston, MA. She graduated with a dual BA in Economics and International Relations from Boston University and an MS in Management from Lesley University.

Kenneth Willis is First Vice President and Director of Housing and Community Investment at the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston. He graduated magna cum laude from Eastern Nazarene College with a Degree in Business Administration. He subsequently received his MBA from the University of Maryland and a Graduate Certificate in Financial Services from the New England College of Finance/ U.C. Berkeley with Distinction.

Non-Voting Members

Matt LiPuma, LICSW, is Executive Director of Family Nurturing Center. He has over thirty years of human service experience and is a leader in family support practice and fiscal management. He is a voting member of the Governing Council of the Boston Family Engagement Network, serves on the Countdown to Kindergarten Steering Committee, and is Chair of the Full-service Schools Roundtable Steering Committee. Matt has an MSW from Boston University.

Sharon Shay Workman is founder of Family Nurturing Center and founding director of Dorchester CARES. She was instrumental in the development of Community Connections at the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families. Sharon currently lives in Traverse City, Michigan and provides consultation to a variety of non-profit organizations. She received her PhD in Family Ecology and Ecological Psychology from Michigan State University.