

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Dr. Jeannine Carpenter

The Women's Fund of Greater Chattanooga unites efforts for social change that improve life for women and their communities across the region. Through advocacy and philanthropy, the Women's Fund catalyzes movement toward a just society that is safe, nurturing, and full of opportunity for women. As the Director of Research and Policy for the Women's Fund of Greater Chattanooga, Jeannine Carpenter leads research, policy recommendations, lobbying, issue education, and advocacy engagement efforts designed to elevate Tennessee beyond its status as one of the worst states in the country for women. Jeannine believes that advocacy is for everyone – regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, religion, race, physical ability, economic status, or educational attainment. Her passion at work is encouraging all women to use their voices and experiences to make the difference that they want to see in the world.

Before joining the Women's Fund, Jeannine worked in education, communications, and issue advocacy, as well as adapted athletics. Jeannine received a PhD in Sociolinguistics from Duke University, a Master's Degree in English language studies and a Bachelor of Arts from North Carolina State University. She currently lives in Chattanooga with her husband, Richard, their son, Dempsey, and their rescued Doberman, Nikki.



Tiffany Baker Cox, Esq.

Tiffany Baker Cox currently serves as Compliance Counsel for TruGreen, LP, the nation's largest and most comprehensive provider of lawn and landscape services. There, she is responsible for ensuring compliance with DOL, OFCCP and EEOC regulations, providing advice and counsel on an array of employment and labor law issues, and assisting in the investigation of internal complaints and external audits and reviews. Prior to her work at TruGreen,

Tiffany served as the Director of the Office for Institutional Equity & Chief Compliance Officer at the University of Memphis, the Title IX Coordinator at Rhodes College, the Director of Equity and Inclusion & Chief Diversity Officer at Tennessee State University, the Deputy Director of the Tennessee Human Rights Commission, and the Director of the

Tennessee Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

She is a native of Chattanooga, Tennessee and is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Political Science with a concentration in Public Administration. She earned her Law Degree from the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law and is licensed to practice in the state of Tennessee.

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Shanna Hughey

Shanna Singh Hughey is the president of ThinkTennessee, where she leads a powerhouse team working to build a state where all Tennesseans are civically engaged and economically secure.

Shanna has spent her career working to protect democracy and increase access to justice. She recently served as senior legal counsel on the Biden/Harris Transition Team. Previously, she was a senior advisor to Nashville Mayor Karl Dean and the director of the Mayor's Office of New Americans. She also served as nominations counsel on the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, where she worked extensively on the Supreme Court confirmations of Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan. Shanna also was a lawyer in the Washington, DC office of O'Melveny & Myers and press secretary to

U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow.

Shanna serves on the board of the Nashville chapter of the American Constitution Society and the advisory board of Kidizenship, a nonpartisan platform that boosts civic engagement among young people. She chaired Nashville Mayor John Cooper's Immigration Task Force, as well as the Nashville Chamber of Commerce's P2030 Advisory Committee. She is a graduate of Leadership Tennessee and the Tennessee Bar Association's Leadership Law program. She loves coaching her young children's soccer teams, and she and her family are passionate about travel – she has visited more than 80 countries.

Shanna graduated with honors from The George Washington University Law School and The University of Michigan. As a trusted voice on public policy, she has been quoted in The Tennessean, The Chattanooga Times Free Press and NPR and is a frequent public speaker throughout Tennessee.



Elizabeth A. Jones

Elizabeth A. Jones a respected leader possesses forty-five years of combined executive, nonprofit, and leadership experience. She is the principal owner and CEO of Brown Jones & Dansby Financial Services Inc., a full-service accounting firm in Beachwood, Ohio. Before transitioning to the private sector, she enjoyed over 20 years of executive leadership as Public Healthcare Administrator for The MetroHealth System, a nationally ranked nonprofit public health care system in Cleveland, Ohio. She served as the first Black female administrator during her tenure.

Elizabeth was elected National President at the 20th Biennial Conference on October 9, 2021, in Orlando, Florida. Elizabeth joined the NCBW Greater Cleveland Chapter, Cleveland, Ohio, in September 2009. During her tenure, she has successfully served NCBW at the national and local levels.

Elizabeth holds a Bachelor of Administration from Hiram College, Master of Business Administration and Accounting Certification from Baldwin Wallace College. She serves on several community boards in Greater Cleveland and holds membership in many community and civic organizations, including Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Alpha Omega Chapter; National Council of Negro Women, Inc. Western Reserve Section, and the Northeast Ohio Black Health Advisory Board – Cleveland, Ohio.

She resides in Macedonia, Ohio, and enjoys reading, gardening, and time with family.

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Margie Quin

Margie Quin has been the Chief Executive Officer at End Slavery Tennessee since June 1, 2019 and supervises the senior management team, coordinates all external messaging on behalf of the organization, is responsible for growth and development, drives the mission, serves as a board/staff liaison and advocates for the issue and the organization.

She has an undergraduate degree from Auburn University and a master's degree in Public Service Management from Cumberland University. Margie retired as an Assistant Special Agent in Charge from the TBI in 2018 after 26 years of service in law enforcement. Beginning in 2007, she directed the statewide AMBER Alert program as well as the Missing Children's Clearinghouse, and it was in doing that work that she became aware of the sex trafficking of Tennessee's youth.

In 2010, Margie led a TBI/Vanderbilt team to research and publish the groundbreaking report, "Tennessee Human Sex Trafficking and Its Impact on Children and Youth". In 2015, Margie was tapped to develop and oversee the creation of the first-ever statewide human trafficking investigative unit at the TBI and tasked with delivering mandatory training to law enforcement as well as investigate cases of human trafficking.

During Governor Bill Haslam's administration, Margie wrote and delivered the Public Safety Sub-cabinet's "action steps" on human trafficking.

In 2021, Governor Bill Lee announced a historic investment in community based services for survivors. ESTN was awarded \$3.5 million to build out a survivor restoration campus in the greater Nashville area, the first of its kind in Tennessee.



Christine Raino

As Senior Director of Public Policy, Christine directs Shared Hope's legislative advocacy efforts to advance protections and services for child and youth sex trafficking survivors. Christine Raino joined Shared Hope International in 2011 as part of a new domestic policy initiative and helped draft the legal analysis of the 50 states and District of Columbia that laid the foundation for the annual Protected Innocence Challenge Report Cards. Following 9 years of state grades under that project, Christine led the development of a new framework for state grades under the Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking, which focus on advancing survivor-centered legislative reforms.

She also authors and leads research initiatives on emerging topics related to child sex trafficking. To ensure that policy efforts advanced by Shared Hope's Institute for Justice & Advocacy are shaped and informed by survivors and on-the-ground implementation, Christine convenes the JuST (Juvenile Sex Trafficking) Response Council, a group of over 30 experts from the areas of policy development, survivor leadership, federal and state child serving agencies and service provision, to examine the nuanced and complex challenges that advocates encounter when working to connect exploited youth to qualified and appropriate services.

Christine is a licensed attorney and obtained her J.D. from American University. Prior to obtaining her law degree, she worked with refugees, asylees and victims of trafficking through federal and state resettlement programs at the International Institute of Boston (now the International Institute of New England).

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Lesley Stiles Searce

Lesley Stiles Searce is currently President and CEO of United Way of Greater Chattanooga. United Way is a dynamic and innovative nonprofit committed to envisioning a community where everyone achieves their full human potential through education, stability, and health & well-being. It is our mission to unite people and resources in building stronger, healthier community.

Since joining United Way in 2015, Ms. Searce has partnered United Way with new community collaborators who bring innovation to solve our community's most critical social issues. She has led United Way through 6 successful campaigns, and in 2020 through community-wide COVID-19 response and partnered with Governor Lee to distribute \$24.2 million to frontline nonprofits through the TN CARES Act. Lesley is the driving force behind

United Way's shift towards a transformational community impact organization.

Before joining United Way, she headed On Point: Direction for Life as its President and CEO for 13 years. Ms. Searce led the organization to reach 240,000 local youth with skills and support necessary to avoid risky behavior and be prepared for life.

Ms. Searce was an adjunct professor of nonprofit management at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga. She was featured at TEDx Chattanooga in 2014 and currently serves in leadership for Chattanooga 2.0, the Mayor's Children's Cabinet, is on the Board of Tennesseans for Quality Early Education and the Howard Fund.

Ms. Searce is passionate about nurturing kids and transforming the way adults view and engage with youth. That's why joining United Way – with its focus on Education and Stability (after school programming, mentoring, and volunteering) – is the perfect professional evolution for her.

When she isn't wrangling two young boys or watching games on the ballfield, you'll probably find her on her front porch with her husband Daniel and their friends. She loves fly fishing and folk music. She is an active member of Calvary Chapel and lives in Chattanooga, TN.



Katy Spurlock

Katy graduated from Rhodes College in 1986, with a B.A. in English and a teaching certificate. She spent 2 years in the Peace Corps in Papua New Guinea, teaching English and other subjects.

Following that, she worked for ALSAC St. Jude for several years and then obtained a master's degree in Social Work. Katy was employed by the Prudential Center for Health Care Research for four years, directing a project related to the new Medicaid waiver program (1994) TennCare in Tennessee. That position led Katy to a grant request, followed by employment with the Plough Foundation in Memphis for 6 years, from 1999 to 2005, doing work in the organization's core focus areas – especially early childhood education. She then transitioned and has been with The Urban Child Institute in Memphis since 2005

serving in various positions. She is now Deputy Director.

Katy completed the Leadership Memphis training program in 2003 and the Leadership Academy Fellows Program in 2005. In 2008, she completed Executive MBA Program at the University of Memphis to gain additional business skills. Katy has served on several boards, coalitions, and advisory committees related to maternal and child health, education, and family well-being.

Katy has 2 adult children – Bryan and Alex.



Altha Stewart, M.D.

Since 2015, Dr. Altha J. Stewart has been Senior Associate Dean Senior Associate Dean for Community Health Engagement, Director, Division of Public and Community Psychiatry, and Director, Center for Health in Justice Involved Youth at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, TN. In that role she has responsibility for planning and implementation of community engagement initiatives for the UTHSC College of Medicine.

As the founding director of the Center for Health in Justice Involved Youth, for the past 6 years she has led development of funding proposals and currently serves as PI for five programs serving youth at risk for justice involvement with mental health and trauma related needs. She now leads the department's efforts to create a community psychiatry fellowship and works to recruit medical students and residents who will join the department and expand the local behavioral health workforce. Prior to this she served for decades as CEO/Executive Director in large public mental health systems in Pennsylvania, New York, and Michigan.

Dr. Stewart received her medical degree from Temple University Medical School, completing her residency at Drexel University. She served as team lead for the SAMHSA/MacArthur Foundation grant in Memphis, Improving Diversion Policies and Programs for Justice Involved Youth with Behavioral Health Disorders and currently serves on the Governor's Juvenile Justice Reform Implementation Council and the boards of JED Foundation, Meadows MH Policy Institute. She is past president of the American Psychiatric Association, Black Psychiatrists of America, Association of Women Psychiatrists and American Psychiatric Foundation.



Dr. Eve Valera

Dr. Valera, Associate Professor in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and Research Scientist at Massachusetts General Hospital has worked in the domestic violence field for 25+ years using a range of methodologies to understand the neural, cognitive and psychological consequences of brain injuries from intimate-partner violence, with her most recent focus being on transgender women.

She regularly lectures internationally (e.g., South Korea, Spain, France, Colombia, Canada, China, Japan) and has received national and international recognition (e.g., TV news, NYT Magazine, Forbes, CBC Canadian radio). Just within the past 3 years she has been the recipient of the prestigious Robert D. Voogt Founders Award, Rappaport Research Fellowship in Neurology, PINK Concussions Domestic Violence Award and the Anne Klibanski Visiting Scholars Award.

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Beverly Watts

Nashville native Beverly L. Watts was appointed the Executive Director of the Tennessee Human Rights Commission in July 2007. Prior to her current appointment she served as Special Advisor to the Chair at the U S Equal Employment Opportunity Commission responsible for state and local relations. She has more than 30 years of experience in civil rights enforcement and education in the public and private sector.

For more than 12 years Beverly was Executive Director of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights and previous to this employment served in other leadership positions in Illinois, and Kentucky. She was one of the first Title IX Coordinators in the US at the Office for Civil Rights, and was adjunct faculty in Sociology at Spalding University.

Beverly is the recipient of numerous awards and honors and has past and present memberships in many professional, civic and community organizations. She is a past President of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA), past Chair of Women Executives in State Government, and currently serves on the Equal Educational Opportunities Group (EEOG) and the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC) Boards.

She is a graduate of Tennessee State University, Southern Illinois University. She has completed the Duke University Leadership Program for State Executives and the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government Executive Leadership Program.



Sonic Essence

L-R Kerren Berz, Tania Maxwell Clements, Angele Sherwood-Lawless, Sarah Kapps

Kerren Berz's talents span the musical spectrum. She has performed, recorded, and toured with the Atlanta Symphony, Harlem Festival Orchestra, and the Nashville Chamber Orchestra, and currently serves as Concertmaster of the Columbus (GA) Symphony. Well respected as an arranger/performer, she is featured on albums by Outkast, Pink, and on Destiny's Child's hit single, "Survivor." Whether sharing the stage with The Eagles, Stevie Wonder, Joni Mitchell, or Johnny Cash, Kerren displays a broad and versatile playing sensibility. She credits her Chattanooga public school music program with giving her the chance to play the violin.

Tania Maxwell Clements is known throughout the U.S. and Europe as a master teacher and performer, with a breadth of experience as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral player in concert and on hundreds of recordings with classical ensembles and rock artists, including as Bruce Springsteen and the Eagles. Currently Head of Strings and Principal Senior Lecturer at Georgia State University, she was principal violist with the BBC Philharmonic (England), a founding member of the Royal Orchestra of Seville (Spain), and principal violist and soloist with Camerata Lysy (Switzerland). Her teaching focus is on entrepreneurship for musicians.

Angele Sherwood-Lawless is a graduate of The Cleveland School of Music and a violinist with the Atlanta Opera, Atlanta Ballet, and serves as Concertmaster of the Macon Pops and Principal Second violin of the Georgia Symphony Orchestra. She also subs with the Atlanta Symphony, Alabama, Charleston, and Columbus Symphonies, and her hometown Pensacola Symphony. She has played countless Broadway musicals and with The Who, The Eagles, Earth Wind and Fire, and Andrea Bocelli, to name a few.

Native Philadelphian Sarah Kapps has an active and diverse musical background that has taken her across much of the globe as soloist, chamber musician, orchestral member, and rock star. She holds degrees from The Manhattan School of Music and The Mannes College of Music, and now makes Atlanta her home. Among her many endeavors as an independent musician, she serves as Artist Affiliate at Georgia State University. When not at the cello, Sarah is an avid Tai Chi practitioner and cat enthusiast.