

## Jim Kales - Biography



Jim Kales is CEO of [Aspire](#), one of Chicagoland's most innovative nonprofits. Aspire helps more than 1,000 kids and adults with disabilities like autism and Down syndrome. Since Kales took the helm in 2007, Aspire's private fundraising has doubled, helped by a strong emphasis on corporate partnerships. Aspire has embraced social entrepreneurship and social media, launching its own coffee company, [Aspire CoffeeWorks](#), in 2009. Aspire coffees are now sold in all Chicagoland Whole Foods stores and were featured nationally on the TODAY Show.

Jim's prior nonprofit roles include Chief Executive Officer of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lake County (IL) and Director of Communications for the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago, one of the nation's largest United Ways.

Jim graduated summa cum laude with honors from Bucknell University, and received his Master's in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School.