

Caren Yanis Biography

Caren Yanis joined Crown Family Philanthropies (CFP) at the beginning of 2009. As the first professional, non-family leader, her role includes managing organizational growth, developing staff, building communications structures, and engaging a large family constituency in strategic grantmaking.

Prior to joining CFP, Caren spent over eight years running Oprah Winfrey's philanthropies including Oprah's Angel Network (a public charity), the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy Foundation, and the Oprah Winfrey Foundation.

During her tenure with Oprah, Caren oversaw a series of projects that included: a public-private partnership with the South African government to build schools in rural areas, a recovery and poverty reduction project in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama that helped over 1,200 people get back into homes following Hurricane Katrina, and a web-based youth development project in schools across the U.S. and Canada.

Caren is member of the Donors Forum Board of Directors, an Ambassador for the Chicago Global Donor's Network, a President's Circle member of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, and sits on the Critical Impact Awards Committee at the Council on Foundations. She holds a degree in Broadcast Journalism from Emerson College in Boston and has a certificate from Stanford University in non-profit leadership.