



Mara Botman

Emerging Philanthropist Award | 2025 Annual Philanthropy Awards

As Executive Director, Mara Botman boldly leads the Vivo Foundation, established in 2021 to advance educational equity and community well-being throughout Chicago.

With a legacy endowment of \$200 million from its founders Andy and Nancy Mills, the Foundation directs significant annual support toward early childhood education, college access, workforce development, violence prevention, health systems, and social justice initiatives. Through strategic grantmaking and community engagement, she steers the Foundation to champion systemic change—ensuring that all young people in Chicagoland can thrive academically, professionally, and personally.

Mara joined Vivo in 2022, bringing expertise from her decade-plus tenure at the Circle of Service Foundation. She currently serves on the boards of Braven, Cleveland Avenue Foundation for Education, Illinois Community College Board, and Kids First Chicago. These roles align with her commitment to community and education, reflecting her dedication to fostering educational equity and community development. Mara holds an MBA from the University of Chicago with a focus on Behavioral Economics and Entrepreneurship, and a bachelor's degree from Northwestern University in Social Policy and Political Science. She resides in Chicago with her husband and two children and enjoys exploring the city's vibrant cultural scene.