

- Outstanding Volunteer Award:** Presented to an individual who demonstrates exemplary volunteerism through the dedication of significant personal time, talents, and resources fostering a particular organization or group of organizations.
- Benjamin Franklin Award:** Presented to a fundraising professional who has attained significant achievements in a long career and is looked to by the profession as a role model. *This is generally a person with ten or more years experience in fundraising that has contributed to the field as a professional, trainer/mentor, and/or volunteer. Nominees do not have to be members of AFP Chicago. Individuals who have previously won the President's Award may be considered for the Benjamin Franklin Award.*
- Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award:** Presented to a youth leader or leaders, or a youth-generated project and its team, having demonstrated a significant impact on the Chicago community. *The recipient(s) will have demonstrated the philanthropic tradition and values associated with serving the community.*

**NOMINEE:**

NAME Liz Thompson TITLE Cafe President & Office Director  
 ORGANIZATION Cleveland Avenue Foundation  
 ADDRESS 222 N. Canal Street  
 CITY Chicago STATE IL ZIP CODE 60606  
 WORK, CELL or HOME# (Required) 312.383.6710  
 EMAIL (Required) liz@thecafe.org  
 HOME ADDRESS (If nominee does not have a work address) \_\_\_\_\_

**NOMINATED BY:**

NAME Dorri McWhorter TITLE: Chief Executive Officer  
 ORGANIZATION YWCA Metropolitan Chicago  
 ADDRESS 1 North LaSalle, Suite 1150  
 CITY Chicago STATE IL ZIP CODE 60602  
 WORK PHONE 312.762.2710 Cell 773.671.0319 EMAIL dorri.mcwhorter@ywcachicago.org

SIGNATURE  DATE 8-2-18

I am not a current member of AFP/Chicago

Member endorsement: ERIC B. JOHNSON  
 Name

  
 Signature

Nominations must be postmarked no later than September 21, 2018 to be considered for an award.

## Association of Fundraising Professionals Chicago Chapter 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Philanthropy Awards Nomination Form

Please complete this form and nomination checklist and include it with your completed nomination packet.

**LATE AND INCOMPLETE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

Nominations must consist of four sections. Please use the following checklist to ensure that you have included all of the required information:

- 1. A letter on standard (8½" x 11") paper explaining why the nominee should be honored for the award. Cite specific examples of the nominee's fulfillment of the award category criteria.
- 2. A copy of the nominee's current resume or list of achievements.
- 3. Supporting materials that may include copies of articles or reports, and/or a biography. Videos are not accepted.
- 4. Three letters of support from individuals or organizations that strengthen the nomination. These should explain accomplishments that specifically support the award category definition.

*Please note: Nominations must be no more than ten pages in length.*

*Please do not staple any portion of your nomination.*

Please forward your completed nomination via mail, email or fax to:

Gail A. Brooks, CMP  
AFP Chicago  
1717 North Naper Blvd., Suite 102  
Naperville, IL 60563  
Email: [gbrooks@afpchicago.org](mailto:gbrooks@afpchicago.org)  
Fax: (630) 416-9798

Nominations must be postmarked **no later than September 21, 2018 to be considered for an award.** Questions? Please call the AFP Chicago Chapter Office at 630-416-1166 or log onto [www.afpchicago.org](http://www.afpchicago.org).

### AWARD CATEGORIES (✓ one):

- Distinguished Philanthropist(s) Award:** Presented to an individual, family or family foundation that has generously donated from personal resources to a variety of philanthropic causes for a minimum of five years, that has made a significant impact to a variety of philanthropic causes.
- Emerging Philanthropist Award:** Presented to an individual, family or family foundation that has generously donated from their personal resources to a variety of philanthropic causes for generally five years or less, that has made a significant impact to a variety of philanthropic causes.
- Executive Leader Award:** Presented to a corporate executive whose outstanding leadership has garnered business and civic support for philanthropy. *The leader does not have to be the CEO of the corporation.*
- Professional Grantor Award:** Presented to a corporate or foundation giving officer recognized for his/her professionalism, sensitivity and generous support to the nonprofit community. *This is generally a paid staff position in a grant making organization.*
- Outstanding Community Leader Award:** Presented to an individual who has shown extraordinary leadership and advocacy for a cause that has resulted in significant and positive change for a particular neighborhood, issue or segment of our community.

eliminating racism  
empowering women

ywca

metropolitan chicago

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago  
1 North LaSalle Street, Suite 1150  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

T: 312-372-6600  
F: 312-346-2231  
[www.ywcachicago.org](http://www.ywcachicago.org)  
[www.yshop.org](http://www.yshop.org)

September 18, 2018

Ms. Gail A. Brooks, CMP  
AFP Chicago  
1717 North Naper Blvd., Suite 102  
Naperville, IL 60563

Dear Gail,

I am happy to present my nomination of Liz Thompson for AFP's Outstanding Community Leader Award.

As the CEO of YWCA Metropolitan Chicago, I have had many opportunities to engage with Liz Thompson on initiatives to foster change within our communities. As an active participant in Chicago's civic community, Liz provides support and guidance to many nonprofit organizations throughout Chicago and beyond. Her deep knowledge and insight into strengthening and fostering growth within communities make her a highly sought-after resource.

As an ardent advocate for access to education, Liz shifted her focus from a career in the private sector, becoming the founder of City Year Chicago which became the template for the AmeriCorps Program. As a philanthropist, Liz expresses her true passion through the work of Thompson's Cleveland Avenue Foundation for Education. She, along with her husband Don, focus their time and resources on organizations that provide support to young people to realize their full potential. Through their foundation's work, underserved students gain college access and receive mentorship for career and life success.

As an entrepreneur, Liz and Don Thompson's business philosophy is aligned with their philanthropic focus, creating opportunities that bring communities together to collaborate for mutual success. Incorporating a hands-on approach, Liz is comfortable interacting with people from all walks of life, bringing compassion and empathy to conversations on difficult issues in order to bridge gaps and create solutions. I can think of no one more deserving of the AFP's Outstanding Community Leader Award than Liz Thompson.

Sincerely,



Dorri McWhorter  
CEO YWCA Metropolitan Chicago



YWCA Metropolitan Chicago



ywcachicago



ywcachicago



[www.yshop.org](http://www.yshop.org)

# 42 of Chicago's Top Black Women of Impact

FEBRUARY 1, 2018

BY MAKE IT BETTER, CANDICE WARLTIER (PRINCIPAL, COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES GROUP), AND LEADERSHIP GREATER CHICAGO

February marks Black History Month. During this month, Make It Better celebrates black women of impact who are making Chicagoland a better place. These dynamic women are among a select group who continually demonstrate what it means to make an impact and improve the lives of others.

Join us in celebrating some of Chicago's top black women of impact.

## **Liz Thompson**

*President, [Cleveland Avenue Foundation for Education](#)*



“I was born and raised in Chicago’s Cabrini Green housing project on Cleveland Avenue. I often share that I didn’t know our circumstances were considered to be ‘less than’ by society at large, because our neighborhood was so infused with love, support, and an undeniable work ethic.

My life experience, education, and career in philanthropic leadership have strengthened my determination to help expose young people to opportunities that can change their trajectories in life. So, I’m honored to now lead The Cleveland Avenue Foundation for Education, known as The CAFE — a 501c3 that financially supports organizations that provide mentorship, assistance with college and career access, and guidance to young professionals. Our goal is to help young people discover the greatness that already exists within them all.”

# Forefront



# nt

Engaging for impact

[HOME](#) / ANNOUNCING THE PARTNERSHIP FOR COLLEGE COMPLETION

## Announcing The Partnership for College Completion

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2016

Forefront's Member Network, [CCAPS \(College and Career Access, Persistence and Success\)](#) is launching the **Partnership for College Completion**, a new organization with the mission to catalyze and champion policies, systems, and practices that ensure all students - particularly low-income, first-generation students - graduate from college and achieve their career aspirations. About 15 months ago, CCAPS released [Report on Chicago's College and Career Access, Persistence and Success Landscape](#). Following the landscape scan, the group engaged Julie Adrianopoli to conduct almost 40 interviews with experts in the field to get their [feedback and recommendations](#) on advancing Chicago's post-secondary access and success landscape. Most recently, Adrianopoli compiled the [Concept Paper: Prioritizing College Completion In and Around Chicago](#), which calls for the launch of the **Partnership for College Completion**. In order to launch the Partnership, CCAPS has convened an Advisory Committee, and an Investors Committee is raising an initial three years of funding. They have engaged the search firm, Isaacson Miller, to conduct a [national search for an executive director](#) to lead the Partnership, and a governing board is taking shape.

***Two members of the Investors Committee of the Partnership stepped forward to share their reflections about the Partnership.***

*We are both members of the Investors Committee, and while all of this progress is impressive, we wanted to share our personal perspectives on why we and our foundations believe in the importance of the Partnership for College Completion.*



**LIZ THOMPSON – President, The Cleveland Avenue Foundation for Education**

My brothers and sisters and I grew up in the Cabrini Green in Chicago and saw first-hand the importance of education in the pathways that my siblings and I followed. My parents valued education and, with their moral support and a patchwork of financial aid, I received my degree in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University. I began my career in Illinois Bell's (later Ameritech's) Management Development Program, but left in 1993 to follow my passion of working with youth and became the founding executive director of City Year Chicago, a nonprofit program that was the model for the national Americorps program. Alongside my husband Don, I now dedicate my energy to nonprofits throughout Chicago and beyond. Education is the primary focus of our philanthropy through the Cleveland Avenue Foundation for Education (The CAFE) where we have funded numerous organizations dedicated to student success. We understand, firsthand, the gaps that exist around opportunities for our students, including the belief gaps that many adults hold for them. I believe the Partnership will be an important component in making Chicago the attainment city for college completion. Our young people are amazing and, as a city and as a region, we need to do all we can to help all of them realize their potential, regardless of the neighborhood they call home.

# *Liz Thompson appointed chair of University of Chicago Charter School board*

By Mary Abowd

Aug 27, 2015

Liz Thompson

University of Chicago Trustee Liz Thompson has been appointed governing board chair of the University of Chicago Charter School.

As chair, Thompson will lead the UChicago Charter School's 21-member governing board, which oversees the school's four South Side campuses. Her appointment was effective Aug. 20.

"The University of Chicago Charter School is an important resource for our nearby neighborhoods, with educational outcomes and college acceptance rates that have made it a national model of urban school success," said President Robert J. Zimmer. "Liz Thompson brings an exemplary background in youth development and education issues, and she has the skill to work with the school leadership to help advance the ambitious vision for the Charter School."

Thompson has served on the governing board since 2010. The board includes faculty and leaders from the University of Chicago and the Urban Education Institute, parents from each of the school's campuses, and community, business and philanthropic leaders.

"I'm honored to have this opportunity to help guide the progress of a school that is delivering such impressive results for its students and is so committed to ensuring that every one of them not only earns a college degree, but becomes a critical thinker and leader in the process," Thompson said. "The work the UChicago Charter School is doing is rewarding for me personally, but it's also meaningful for the entirety of the South Side, and for what we want to accomplish for urban schools nationwide."

Thompson brings to the role extensive experience in nonprofit organizations and expertise in youth development and education. In 1993, she was named founding executive director of City Year Chicago, the local chapter of a national service organization that served as a template for the AmeriCorps Program. She then led Family Star in Denver, Colo., one of the only Early Head Start Montessori programs in the nation. Thompson served on several local boards in Denver and San Diego, Calif., where she developed a greater understanding of youth and education issues and expanded her philanthropic activities. Prior to her work with nonprofits, she spent ten years with Ameritech Corporation.

"Liz is as inspirational as she is impressive," said Sara Ray Stoelinga, the Sara Liston Spurlark Director of the Urban Education Institute. "She connects with our students and staff in a way that energizes us to work harder, and she brings to the governing board the kind of perspective,

expertise and vision that will drive us forward. We are so fortunate to have someone of her stature as our partner in our work, on behalf of the 1,900 students at the Charter School.”

Thompson is a member of the University of Chicago Board of Trustees and its Women’s Board, is a director for the Museum of Science and Industry, and serves as co-chair of Purdue University’s Minority Engineering Program Advisory Panel. She is an alumna of the Non-Profit Leadership Program of Denver and the Leadership Greater Chicago Program, where she is also a member of the board of directors.

She lives outside Chicago with her husband, Donald Thompson, and their two children. She holds a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from Purdue University.

Thompson succeeds Margot Pritzker, who has led the governing board since 2011. During Pritzker’s leadership of the board, UChicago Charter School has made marked progress toward its goal of 100 percent college graduation for its students, achieving four consecutive years of 100 percent college acceptance, as well as a college persistence rate that is second among all high schools in the Chicago area. Pritzker also has spearheaded a successful fundraising effort to build a new campus for the Charter School’s Woodlawn secondary program, which is expected to break ground in 2016

Elizabeth M. Thompson

As President of the Cleveland Avenue Foundation for Education (The CAFÉ), Liz is deeply engaged in the non-profit community and passionate about youth development and education. She began working with non-profits in 1993 as founding Executive Director of City Year Chicago, a national service organization that was the template for the AmeriCorps Program. Then in 1995, Liz served as Executive Director of a Montessori school in Denver, where she led a \$5 million expansion, which further fueled her interest in philanthropy and education. Prior to her work with non-profits, Liz had a ten-year career with Ameritech Corporation, culminating in her role as special assistant to the CEO of Ameritech Illinois and director of a three-state region for Network Field Operations.

Liz is a director for Chicago Beyond and serves as Vice Chair of the Partnership for College Completion. She serves on the Steering Committee of the University of Chicago Women's Board and is a Special Advisor to OneGoal. She is an alumna of the Non-Profit Leadership Program of Denver and of the Leadership Greater Chicago Program where she currently also serves as a Director. Liz loves spending time with her family and friends, and cherishes her title of 'Queen of Useless Facts'.

**Board of Directors:**

- **Braven- National Director- 2018-Present**
- **Partnership for College Completion- Vice Chairman- 2016-Present**
- **Chicago Public Media/WBEZ- Director July 2018**
- **One Goal- Special Advisor - 2015-Present**
- **Leadership Greater Chicago- Director 2008-2018**

**Awards/Honors:**

- **Dream Builders Award from the Chicago Child Care Society-2018.**
- **Aspen Institute-Pahara Fellow- 2018**
- **Make It Better: 42 of Chicago's Top Black Women of Impact –2018**
- **John J. Dugan Award- OneGoal 2015**



# CHICAGO CHILD CARE SOCIETY

**Empowering Families  
Transforming Lives  
Since 1849**

5467 S. University Avenue  
Chicago IL 60615  
t 773-643-0452  
f 773-643-0620  
CCCSociety.org

Dara T. Munson, MPA  
Chief Executive Officer

### Board of Directors

Paul Herring, President  
Caragh DeLuca, Vice President  
Regina Wootton, Secretary  
Julie Beringer, Treasurer

Judith S. Block  
Herbert C. Blutenthal  
James A. Byrd

Sadry Café  
Daynor M. Carman  
Thomas W. Carr

Camille El-Amin  
Steven L. Gryll  
Francia E. Harrington

Robert J. Harris  
Meredith Hayes  
Steven V. Hunter  
Richard F. Karger  
Andrew Kelly  
John G. Levi

Robert Lindstrom  
Charles T. Marlas  
Jeanne C. Marsh  
Dorri McWhorter  
Robert K. Parsons  
Mary O. Pearlman  
Timothy A. Renz  
Nancy Snyder  
Elizabeth Sonnenschein  
Kevin P. Stineman  
Andrew Turitz  
William E. Wolf

September 19, 2018

Ms. Gail A. Brooks, CMP  
AFP Chicago  
1717 North Naper Blvd., Suite 102  
Naperville, IL 60563

Dear Gail,

I am happy to present my nomination of Liz Thompson for AFP's Outstanding Community Leader Award. I got to know her quite well as Liz was the honoree at the Chicago Child Care Society Spring Luncheon in May 2018. We chose her to receive our inaugural Dream Builders Award for her lifetime of giving, investing in the dreams of our young people.

If there's one name that's synonymous with 'giving back' in Chicago, it's Liz Thompson.

As President of the Cleveland Avenue Foundation for Education (The CAFÉ), Liz is deeply engaged in the non-profit community and is passionate about youth development and education. She began working with non-profits in 1993 as founding Executive Director of City Year Chicago, a national service organization that was the model for AmeriCorps. Liz then served in leadership roles in education and philanthropy in Denver and San Diego before returning to Chicago in 2004.

Liz now serves as a director for Chicago Beyond and serves as Vice Chair of the Partnership for College Completion. She serves on the Steering Committee of the University of Chicago Women's Board and is a Board Member of OneGoal Chicago, a national organization whose mission is "College graduation. Period." She is an alumnus of the Non-Profit Leadership Program of Denver and of the Leadership Greater Chicago Program where she currently also serves as a Director.

Liz has worked tirelessly to create pathways to success for youth in our city. She gives back by bridging communities, bringing people together that wouldn't naturally end up in the same room. She was born in Chicago and lived in a housing project on Cleveland Avenue, in the heart of the former Cabrini-Green Homes. Liz has dedicated her life to philanthropy and to being an advocate for youth in challenged communities.



In preparing to participate in our Spring luncheon, Liz met and inspired our testimonial students and the staff that mentor youth in our programs. She meets people where they are and lifts up their life experience as a valuable resource. Liz has made it her life's work to ensure as many children as possible attend college and secure meaningful careers after graduation. She exudes empathy, patience, joy, and faith in our youth.

All of this came through as she addressed our guests at the luncheon, so many of whom left the event saying it was the best program ever at a CCCS event! All were inspired by her perspective to treat our youth with respect for their gifts and aspirations, not as "youth at-risk" or lacking in any way. Her words inspired our guests to reconsider their own perceptions of Chicago's young people.

I am honored to provide this letter of support for Liz's nomination for AFP's award. She is truly deserving and Chicago is blessed to have her in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dara T. Munson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dara T. Munson, MPA  
Chief Executive Officer



Gail A. Brooks, CMP  
Association of Fundraising Professionals, Chicago Chapter  
1717 North Naper Blvd., Suite 102  
Naperville, Illinois  
60563

September 14, 2018

Re: Liz Thompson Nomination for Outstanding Community Leader Award

Dear Gail,

As the Founder & CEO of Chicago Beyond, it is my great honor to nominate Liz Thompson as the recipient of the AFP Chicago Chapter's 2019 Outstanding Community Leader Award. To all who know Liz, it is no secret that she is a brilliant, empathic, and passionate community leader driven by a personal conviction to create a more equitable and proximate Chicago. It is this passion that has made her such an invaluable asset to so many across our great city, including the team at Chicago Beyond. Her life-long service and dedication to others makes her an exemplary and deserving nominee.

Chicago Beyond is an organization that fights to create equity for young people living in Chicago's most economically fragile communities. In just two years, we've invested more than \$30 million in 13 nonprofit organizations across Chicago. Beyond funding, we provide each of our partners with the strategic supports they need to grow and serve more young people. Most recently, we've grown our approach to also invest in high-potential community leaders who are focused on tackling significant challenges facing Chicago's youth.

Throughout my journey at the helm of Chicago Beyond, Liz has served as a sounding board, a mentor, a cheerleader and a champion for young people. She has a vested and deeply personal interest in the success of our city's youth, and I am so proud to be a small part of her work and aspirations.

Liz is generous with her ideas and she has an endless desire to connect those who are doing good work for our city. Whether it is through her foundation Cleveland Avenue, where she has curated Café Conversations with dozens of civic leaders to uncover the latest issues facing Chicagoans, or through making personal introductions where synergies may lie across the nonprofit sector, Liz believes in a more united Chicago. Incredible nonprofit organizations, innovations and partnerships have been forged all because of Liz's inherent drive to connect people: that's the Liz Thompson Effect.

I am one individual among many who are eternally grateful for knowing Liz Thompson and her equally incredible family who are driven to make Chicago better for its residents. It is my great honor to nominate Liz without reservation.

Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach me at [liz.dozier@chicagobeyond.org](mailto:liz.dozier@chicagobeyond.org) or by phone at 312-873-0164.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Dozier".

Liz Dozier  
Founder & CEO, Chicago Beyond

August 27, 2018

Association of Fundraising Professionals  
Chicago Chapter

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing to provide my strongest support for Liz Thompson's nomination for AFP Chicago Chapter's Outstanding Community Leader Award.

I first met Liz six years ago, at a small intimate gathering of a New York Times author and philanthropists who were discussing developing social emotional skills in children that grew up in low-income neighborhoods. With her characteristic grace and finesse, Liz gently reminded those gathered that she had unique perspective to share as the only first generation college goer and person of color in the room. And also characteristically so, when Liz has something to share, she was so insightful, passionate and strategic, that the conversation stopped and even the most verbose person in the room, listened.

Indeed, Liz has sat at many seats at the table in the social impact space, so she is able to drive change in a unique and powerful way. Liz was instrumental in launching City Year in Chicago, as it's first Executive Director. Now as a philanthropist, she has likewise been the wind in the sails of many of the cities highest performing non-profits, OneGoal included. Not only has Liz helped us think through some of our most important strategic questions, like our growth strategy, or how to take our Board of Directors to the next level, she's poured her time and care into me as a growing professional and Executive Director. Liz has become one of the strongest mentors in my life. And what is so noteworthy, is that I'm not alone. There are dozens of nonprofit leaders and for-profit leaders looking to make impact in our city who Liz has personally supported, guided and provided with advice that is humble, empowering, vulnerable real talk – the kind that makes an indelible mark on who you are as a person, partner and leader.

Now, as Fellow members on the Board of Directors of Braven, I get to see again firsthand how Liz shapes an idea and stewards the students the organization serves as well as the leaders whose impact will have far reaching ripples, some of which she may never even fully witness. She picks up the phone, has the tough conversations, listens with empathy and nudges everyone towards excellence and outcomes. Simply put, if you want to begin to solve some of the most intractable issues faced by the young people in our city, there is no one else better to have on your side than Liz Thompson. She will remind you of their brilliance, of your own, of the complexity of the issues, and instill in you her contagious sense of hope and belief in what is possible when we build something together.

Sincerely,



Sarah Berghorst  
Executive Director  
OneGoal Chicago