



Women's Caring Program Board of Directors 2011

Barbara Barrett

Barrett is a regional vice president for The Leona Group, LLC. Leona manages free public charter schools and is among the largest education service providers in the United States. Barrett's career spans both education and business. She has taught in three states and worked in several administrative capacities for the Cranbrook Schools, including director of admissions, associate director of development, director of development and director of public relations. She served as executive vice president of Pangborn Design, Ltd., and as president of its marketing and public relations division. She has been active in diverse community service organizations, and currently serves as an officer and board member of the Michigan Association of Public School Academies (MAPSA). She resides in Bloomfield Hills. Work: (517) 333-4823.

Valerie Brader

Secretary

Valerie Brader is the Chief Energy Policy Officer for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). As Energy Officer for the MEDC, Valerie works closely with the Governor's office, the Michigan Energy Office, and MEDC business development, and entrepreneur services groups to make energy policy recommendations for the state. Previously she was a member at Bodman PLC, specializing in corporate and environmental law. A Rhodes Scholar and published author in both the legal and scientific presses, Brader previously worked as the career law clerk for the Hon. John Feikens, an environmental consultant to the EPA and Department of Defense, and for the Idaho governor on environmental and natural resource issues. Brader was the first-ever recipient of the Harvard College Women's Leadership Award. Valerie loved her day care as a child and loves WCP as an adult because it gives families and children the chance to have that experience too. She resides in Pittsfield Township.

Melissa D. Cragg

Treasurer

Cragg has worked with The Fisher Group for eight years where she serves as chief investment officer. For 21 years before that she worked as treasurer of the Detroit Medical Center and as group manager of Comerica's Health, Education and Municipalities Group. She is active in her church, Christ Church in Detroit, and serves on several investment committees for area charities. She resides in Grosse Pointe Park. Work: (248) 415-4000.

Linda D. Forte

Vice President

Forte is senior vice president and a member of the senior leadership team for Comerica Bank. She is responsible for directing its diversity strategy, community involvement and charitable giving programs. Forte is a board member of the Economic Development Corp. of the City of Detroit, Neighborhood Development Corp. of the City of Detroit, the Michigan Women's Foundation, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, City Year and the Henry Ford Health System Foundation. She is a member of the Urban Financial Services Coalition, the National Black MBA Association, the Detroit Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the Renaissance Chapter of the Links Inc. She resides in Detroit. Work: (313) 222-5076.

Terri Haas-Wittmann

Haas-Wittmann owns and operates Haas-Wittmann Design, an award-winning graphic design studio in Lansing. Established in 1997, the company serves the design and marketing needs of national, regional and local clients in a wide range of industries. Previously, she served as vice president and creative director for Ciesa and Associates, an East Lansing, MI graphic design studio. She is active in a number of community organizations and resides in Lansing. Work: (517) 267-1580.

Maureen McNulty Saxton

McNulty Saxton is founder and director of PR Edge, LLC, a Lansing-based public relations, media relations and issue management firm. She was director of communications for the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries and coordinator of the Michigan Quarter Commission. Prior to that, she was director of communications for the Michigan Department of Treasury, deputy campaign manager, press secretary and spokesperson for Governor John Engler, director of public affairs for the Michigan Inaugural Committee, and communications director/press secretary for three state budget directors and the state treasurer. She also worked as a reporter for the Grosse Pointe News, the Erie (PA) Daily Times and as an editorial assistant at the Detroit Free Press. She resides in Holt. (517) 899-5513.

**Colleen Robar
President**

Colleen Robar is director of corporate communications at Crain Communications, Inc in Detroit. She previously served as president of Robar PR and as vice president/account director of Mullen. She has also held communications and public relations positions at Ardesta, the Metropolitan Detroit Convention & Visitors Bureau and The Ritz Carlton, Dearborn. Robar serves on the board of the Greening of Detroit, Belle Isle Women's Committee and St. Charles Borromeo Church and chairs the Senior Council of PRSA-Detroit. She lives in downtown Detroit. Work: (313) 446-0331.

Carol A. Walters

Walters is president of Walters & Associates, Inc., a financial advisory firm that has assisted corporations, non-profits and governmental institutions in managing and organizing complex financial transactions since 1989. Her experience has included advising the State of Michigan on issuance of tax exempt securities, managing ratings for the sale of public debt and raising funds for major development projects in southeast Michigan. She has previously held posts for the State of Michigan as executive director of the Michigan Municipal Bond Authority, executive director of the Commerce Department's Economic & Community Development offices and director of federal-state relations for the Commerce and Labor Departments. She currently serves as an officer and board member of the Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills, and as a board member of Inforum, formerly Detroit Women's Economic Club. She resides in Milford. Work: (248) 685-0594.

Kathleen Wilbur

Wilbur is vice president for government relations and public affairs at Central Michigan University. She previously served as director of the Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services, Department of Licensing and Regulation, and Department of Commerce. Previously, she served as the chief of staff to former State Senator William Sederburg and was elected statewide to the Michigan State University Board of Trustees. She is a board member of the Governor's Workforce Commission, Michigan Investment Advisory Committee, Michigan State Housing Development Authority, Michigan Municipal Bond Authority and Michigan Council on Economic Education. She was also appointed by the Governor as a board member of the Michigan Higher Education Assistance Authority and the Michigan Higher Education Student Loan Authority and is a member of the Michigan Health Council, ArtServe Michigan and the East Lansing Area Zonta Club. In 2007, Wilbur was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in October 2007. She resides in Okemos. Work: (989) 774-3871.