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**Career Summary:** Well-known, respected leader in nonprofit management, fund development, board development, strategic planning, government relations and communications.

* Thirty-five years of leadership and management of nonprofit organizations; excels in developing organizations, staff and volunteer leaders.
* Seven years with the American Cancer Society, one of the top-ranked nonprofit organizations in the country. Held three leadership roles with ACS.
* Extensive experience and unique ability to work with volunteers and boards of directors to help them become more effective in their roles.
* Excellent communication skills, rooted in journalism.
* Wide-ranging relationships with government, nonprofit and business leaders across the state.

**Professional Achievement**

**NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Iowa**

*Executive Director* March 2016--Present

Responsible for overall management of this statewide organization, including fundraising, board relations, technical assistance to 13 affiliates, financial and program management, advocacy, and community outreach. Manage two staff.

**No Labels**

*Iowa State Director* March-–October 2015

Responsible for all grassroots, grass tops and presidential campaign outreach and engagement around this national issue campaign, focused in Iowa on the Caucuses. (*Position eliminated as part of budget cuts.)*

**Accomplishments:**

* Recruited 100 Iowa Leaders, including many state and local elected officials.
* Persuaded three out of four members of the Iowa U.S. House delegation to sign on to the resolution supporting the National Strategic Agenda.
* Met with 18 presidential candidates or campaign staff to brief them on No Labels.

**American Cancer Society**

*Senior Market Manager, Community Engagement* September 2013—February 2015

Served as the Des Moines market leader and spokesperson. Engaged with business, healthcare and community leaders in central Iowa to promote the work of ACS, recruit new volunteers and raise money. Led the market team of 10 staff with a goal of increasing overall income and mission outcomes.

**Accomplishments:**

* Partnered with IPTV to plan and produce a series of three community forums involving hundreds of Iowans around the airing of the Ken Burns documentary “The Emperor of All Maladies”.
* Recruited new corporate event sponsors and increased community support for our six annual fundraising events, allowing us to achieve 95 percent of our market goal – the highest in our division in a year when national fundraising was 12 percent below goal.

*Minnesota Leadership Director* September 2012--August 2013

Managed the State Leadership Board and Staff Leadership Team, ensuring achievement of statewide goals through motivation and focus on results. Developed and mobilized high-level volunteers to effectively carry out commitments. (*Position eliminated as part of a national reorganization.*)

**Accomplishments:**

* Led the process of developing three statewide goals with the staff team. Worked with the Board chair to gain specific commitments from members to impact the goals.

*Iowa Director of Government Relations* January 2008-August 2012

Responsible for managing all policy and strategy development, as well as communications, with local, state and federal legislative and executive branch officials. Managed a staff of three employees and three consultants. Raised money in Iowa for the Cancer Action Network. **Accomplishments:**

* One of the health advocates primarily responsible for passage of the landmark Iowa Indoor Smokefree Air Act in April 2008.
* Doubled the number of grassroots advocates from 2,500 to 5,000 through a series of innovative, strategic outreach initiatives developed with a national consultant.
* Served as chair of four statewide policy coalitions or committees leading the development and discussion of healthcare reform, radon, tobacco and general cancer-related policy.
* Delivered the keynote address at the 2011 Iowa Cancer Summit.
* Developed a series of annual fundraising events featuring high-level elected officials that raised nearly $100,000 for ACS CAN.

**Iowans for Sensible Priorities**

*State Director* 2005-2008

Managed a staff of 13 full-time professionals and a budget of $750,000 with the goal of injecting the issue of national budget priorities into the presidential nominating process through the 2008 Iowa Caucuses.

**Accomplishments:**

* Persuaded nearly 12,000 Iowans to sign a pledge to only support a candidate who supported Sensible Priorities (shifting 15 percent of wasteful Pentagon spending on obsolete and unneeded weapons systems into education, healthcare and renewable energy).
* Received endorsements from 57 legislators, two governors, two congressmen, a U.S. senator, and 48 business leaders.
* Attended more than 800 presidential candidate events across the state, asking Priorities-related questions more than 500 times in public forums.

**Iowa Association of School Boards Foundation**

*Director of Development* 2004-2005

Raised the visibility and resources of the Foundation to support research-based, statewide education initiatives that put the association on the leading edge nationally in raising student achievement.

**Accomplishments:**

* Launched a five-year, five pilot site early childhood literacy program
* Raised the first $525,000 of a planned $2 million.

**Chrysalis Foundation**

*Executive Director* 2000-2004

Responsible for overall management of the foundation (which makes grants to improve the lives of women and girls) including fundraising, event planning, grant making, technical assistance, budgeting and investments, and community outreach. Managed two full-time staff.

**Accomplishments:**

* Increased the endowment fund from $400,000 to nearly $7 million.
* Raised over $600,000 per year from individuals, corporations and foundations.
* Increased the number and size of grants by 50 percent over three years.

**Additional Experience:**

* **State Director, Iowans for Sensible Prioriti**es. Managed the first incarnation of this campaign, with a $1 million budget and a staff of nine.
* **Owner, NonProfit Resources.** Consulted with over 50 Iowa nonprofits and government agencies on fund development, public relations and strategic planning.
* **Development Director, Des Moines Playhouse.** Managed the capital campaign that built the Kate Goldman Children's Theatre while raising $225,000 for the annual fund.
* **Executive Director, Iowa Hospice Organization.** Spearheaded the successful effort to add hospice care as a Medicaid benefit and established a successful annual conference, tripling attendance and revenue over three years.
* Communications Director, Coalition for Family & Children’s Services.
* Communications Director, Iowa State Association of Counties.
* Freelance writer and contract lobbyist.
* Broadcast wire editor and general assignment reporter, Associated Press.
* Reporter, Des Moines Tribune.

**Volunteer Achievement**

**The Arts**

**Repertory Theater of Iowa** – Founding board member in 2008 of this group dedicated to bringing professional theater to Des Moines; was elected president and served until 2011.

**StageWest** – Served on the board of this amateur theater company that brings cutting-edge, innovative theater to Des Moines from 2004 to 2006, chairing the Fundraising Committee.

**Iowa Arts Council** – Appointed by Gov. Tom Vilsack to a three-year term (2000-2003); served on annual grant review panels and chaired the Arts Advocacy Day effort for two years. The Arts Council oversees the granting of all NEA and state funds for the arts, as well as programmatic and advocacy efforts.

**Des Moines Playhouse** – Volunteered for numerous shows, projects and committees that included the staging of “Peace Child” in 1987 with an international cast and the hosting of an international theater festival in 1990.

**Social Justice**

**Heartland Democracy** – Served on the board from 2008 to 2010 for this group, which aims to win over hearts and minds in the Midwest to just and sustainable community goals through public engagement on regional policy initiatives.

**Iowa Citizen Action Network (ICAN) and Education Foundation** -- Served on either the ICAN or Foundation board for 20 years (1987-2007), working on campaign finance and health care reform, environment and energy issues. Was treasurer, vice president and president of both boards.

**Freedom Fund of Planned Parenthood of Greater Iowa** – Was the top volunteer fundraiser in 2006, helping to raise a record $180,000 and elect four out of the five targeted legislative seats, along with a pro-choice governor. Served from 2004 to 2008, including two years as president.

**Midwest States Center** – Founding board member (1996-98) of this regional coalition that provided technical, program and capacity building assistance to progressive groups through national foundation funding. Returned to the board from 2001-2003, serving as president in 2002.

**Honors and Awards**

* *Iowa Cancer Champion* – Honored in 2012 by the Iowa Cancer Consortium, the top award given by the Consortium for work to ease the burden of cancer in the state.
* *DAWN Lifetime Achievement Award* – Honored in 2010 by the Democratic Activist Women’s Network for 28 years of work to elect progressive Democratic women to state office. I was the first person to receive this award.
* *50 Ways to Love Your Country* – My essay was one of 50 chosen for inclusion in this 2004 book from more than 20,000 submitted.
* *Transformational Leadership* – Chosen by the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute for its inaugural class in Transformational Community Leadership in 2001; was then selected to coach participants in the program over the next three years.

**Education**

Drake University, B.A., magna cum laude, news editorial journalism.

University of Missouri at Kansas City, further study, Masters in Nonprofit Management program.