

2026  
Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

6:00 PM - 8:30 PM ET

In-Person | 7979 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD

Virtual | Zoom



## Letter from Leadership

Dear Barker Community,

Welcome to the 2026 Annual Meeting of The Barker Adoption Foundation.

Last year, we had the extraordinary privilege of celebrating 80 years of Barker—eight decades of serving children, families, and the broader adoption community with compassion, integrity, and an unwavering belief in permanency, connection, and belonging. That milestone gave us an opportunity not only to honor our history, but also to recognize the generations of individuals whose lives have been touched by Barker's work.

Tonight, we come together as a community to reflect on the year behind us, look ahead to the future we are building together, and celebrate the people who make this mission possible. From our dedicated Board and Friends of Barker volunteers, to our talented staff, and our generous supporters, this evening is a reflection of the strength of this community.

We are especially grateful to the individuals and families who trust Barker into their lives, their homes, and some of their most personal decisions. They come to Barker during moments of uncertainty, vulnerability, and hope, and it is a privilege we never take lightly. We have the honor of walking alongside them through challenging times, providing expert care, thoughtful guidance, and steady support when it matters most.

We will share updates from the past year, elect new trustees and directors, recognize those who have made exceptional contributions, and continue important conversations about the evolving needs of the children and families we serve.

As we build on the momentum of our 80th year, we invite you to renew your commitment to Barker's mission. Your presence at this annual gathering of community is a powerful reminder that when we come together in service of children and families, we create lasting impact.

Thank you for being part of this special evening and for continuing to walk alongside Barker.

Warmly,

Sue Hollar  
Executive Director & CEO  
The Barker Adoption Foundation

Melissa Gray-Hughes  
Board of Trustees Chair  
The Barker Adoption Foundation

# Annual Meeting Agenda

## May 20, 2026

Call to Order, Welcome and Opening Remarks	<b>Melissa Gray-Hughes</b> Chair, Board of Trustees	6:30 pm
Approval of 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes	<b>Rajiv Dembla</b> Secretary, Board of Trustees	6:45 pm
Annual Financial Report	<b>Michael MacFarland</b> Treasurer, Board of Trustees	6:50 pm
Friends of Barker Report	<b>Rachel Firschein</b> President, Friends of Barker Board	7:00 pm
Nominating Committee Report/Elections	<b>J McCray</b> Committee Chair	7:05 pm
Executive Director's Report	<b>Sue Hollar</b> Executive Director & CEO	7:20 pm
Panel: <i>What Does it Mean to Belong?</i>	Facilitated by <b>Saara McEachnie</b> Panelists: <b>Chris Bowerman, Barbara Donesky, and Bethany Fraser</b>	7:35 pm
Presentation of the Richard B. Barker Award	<b>Sue Hollar</b>	8:20 pm
Meeting Adjournment	<b>Melissa Gray-Hughes</b>	8:30 pm

The annual meeting of The Barker Adoption Foundation was held at The Barker Adoption Foundation office in Bethesda, Maryland. Ms. Eugenia Collis, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm. She welcomed those attending in person and virtually.

The minutes of the May 22, 2024 annual meeting were approved as presented.

### **Financial Report – Michael MacFarland**

Mr. McFarland thanked the members of the Board of Trustees for their diligence in ensuring that Barker maintains a healthy financial state. He indicated that the recent audit resulted in a clean finding. Mr. McFarland presented the Statement of Financial Position, reviewing the cash and cash equivalents at year end. He further reviewed total liabilities and net assets. Mr. MacFarland then reviewed the Statement of Activities. He highlighted various revenue lines as well as the distribution from the Friends of Barker.

### **Friends of Barker – Rachel Firschein**

Ms. Firschein reported that T. Rowe Price serves as the Friends of Barker financial manager. She described how the Friends of Barker works with T. Rowe Price to take a long view of its investments within the parameters of the established investment guidelines. Ms. Firschein reviewed the distribution from the Friends of Barker investment funds to Barker for the recent year. She described the diversification of the portfolio, noting that there are investments in equities, bonds, and cash. The percentages for those investments are typical for the desired purpose of the fund. The value of the fund at year end was XXX[Redacted]. Ms. Firschein described how the distribution rate is calculated.

### **Nominating Committee – Michelle Wilson**

Ms. Wilson thanked the members of the Nominating Committee.

The following candidates were presented for nomination for a three-year term as members of The Barker Adoption Foundation Board of Trustees: Daniel Berler, Gregg Brunson-Pitts, and Terry Dolce. The nominees were elected by voice vote.

The following candidates were presented for re-nomination to a three-year term as members of The Barker Adoption Foundation Board of Trustees: Alex Altman-Sherman, Jo Ann Regan, Michelle Wilson, and George Wolohojian. The nominees were elected by voice vote.

The following candidates were presented for election as continuing non-Trustee members of the Nominating Committee for a one-year term: Sonya Ali, Kimberly Connor, and Jon Ellenbogen. The nominees were elected by voice vote.

The following candidates were presented for election as continuing members of the Friends of Barker for three-year terms: Jelani Freeman and Amy Sturtevant. The nominees were elected by voice vote.

By way of information and per the by-laws and not for vote, the 2025-2026 slate of officers for the Board of Trustees was presented as follows: Melissa Gray-Hughes, Chair; Alan Heymann, First Vice Chair; Meghan Duffy, Second Vice Chair; Michael MacFarland, Treasurer; Russ Guzdar, Assistant Treasurer; Rajiv Dembla, Secretary; and J McCray, Assistant Secretary.

## **Minutes (continued)**

### **Recognition of Outgoing Trustees – Eugenia Collis**

Ms. Collis recognized the three trustees whose terms are ending this year and their Board service concluding: Benjamin Murray, Adrian Washington, Daniel Wong, and Christopher Young. They were thanked for their contributions to The Barker Adoption Foundation.

### **Executive Director's Report – Sue Hollar**

Ms. Hollar welcomed those participating both in person and virtually. She reflected on the 80-year history of Barker's longevity noting the community's unwavering commitment to the belief that every child deserves a family and every family deserves support. Ms. Hollar described the heightened needs of children and families during uncertain times.

She posed three questions and led a discussion with participants as they reflected on these questions.

- What does Barker mean to you?
- Why does Barker need to exist 80 years from now?
- What do you want others to understand about Barker's value?

Ms. Hollar provided an overview of services provided to the community throughout 2024, emphasizing supportive services to birth parents, adoptees, and adoptive parents. Educational initiatives were described, including various workshops and the annual conference. Ms. Hollar described recent a partnership with XXX [Redacted] to facilitate a homeland tour to South Korea, including support in advance of, during, and following the tour. Forty-seven children were placed with the assistance of Barker in 2024. Four agencies have been selected to enter into a partnership with Barker to facilitate older child adoption.

Ms. Hollar described the global trend towards family preservation and, in some instances, use of long-term care and how that has affected international adoption. She noted that both China and South Korea have ceased traditional international adoptions.

Ms. Hollar thanked the members of the staff, Friends of Barker, and Board of Trustees for their contributions to Barker's success.

### **Barker: "Through Our Eyes, In Our Steps: Adoption as We Live It — An Intimate Conversation." Facilitated by Sami Albert**

A panel of individuals spoke of their different experiences navigating the adoption triad.

### **Presentation of Richard B. Barker Award – Michele Mazzei**

Mr. George Wolohojian was honored as the recipient of the annual Richard B. Barker Award. Ms. Mazzei described his contributions to and efforts on behalf of The Barker Adoption Foundation.

**Minutes (continued)**

**Introduction of Incoming Board Chair - Eugenia Collis and Melissa Gray-Hughes**

Ms. Collis introduced Ms. Gray-Hughes as the incoming chair. Ms. Gray-Hughes described how honored she is to serve as the next chair of the Board. She thanked Ms. Collis for her unwavering commitment, grace, and steady guidance of the organization. Ms. Gray-Hughes provided an overview of her vision for the year ahead, including celebration of Barker's 80 years of service and a refresh of the strategic plan.

**Adjournment**

With no other business brought forward, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Benjamin Murray  
Secretary

## The Barker Adoption Foundation



### Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2025 and 2024

	PRELIMINARY 2025	FINAL 2024
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,687,447	\$ 1,380,348
Program fees receivable	39,059	51,127
Grants and contributions receivable, net	-	201,208
Pledges receivable	191,467	410,431
Prepaid expenses and other assets	8,803	37,811
Deposits	3,575	3,075
Property and equipment, net	13,028	21,137
Due from Friends of Barker	2,695	8,363
Office Lease- ROU Asset	756,130	931,263
Deferred compensation plan assets	100,721	77,624
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,802,925</b>	<b>\$ 3,122,387</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Accounts payable and other accrued expenses	\$ 172,284	\$ 127,917
Accrued personnel costs	42,976	42,884
International programs payable	36,177	11,989
Deferred revenue	11,447	15,574
Refundable deposits	94,829	81,970
Lease liability- finance lease/copiers	13,278	18,906
Lease liability- operating lease/office	867,238	1,056,660
Deferred compensation plan liability	100,721	77,624
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1,338,950</b>	<b>1,433,524</b>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>1,463,975</b>	<b>1,688,863</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,802,925</b>	<b>\$ 3,122,387</b>

PRELIMINARY-UNAUDITED

# The Barker Adoption Foundation



## Statement of Activities Years Ended December 31, 2025 and 2024

	<b>PRELIMINARY 2025</b>	<b>FINAL 2024</b>
<b>Revenue and Support</b>		
Fees for services	\$ 1,193,017	\$ 1,043,466
Contributions	1,304,720	1,323,715
Grants	271,250	305,000
Net Investment Income	44,030	62,380
Other	60,416	36,546
Friends of Barker Distribution	804,158	799,722
<b>Total Revenue and Support</b>	<b>3,677,591</b>	<b>3,570,829</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Program services	2,993,096	2,893,951
Management and general	520,952	503,696
Fundraising	388,432	375,565
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>3,902,479</b>	<b>3,773,212</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ (224,888)</b>	<b>\$ (202,383)</b>

PRELIMINARY-UNAUDITED

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

FRIENDS OF BARKER

Presented at

The Barker Adoption Foundation ANNUAL MEETING

May 20, 2026

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In 2025, the endowment of the Friends of Barker (FOB) increased by 12.9% as compared to a 15% increase in the benchmark against which the endowment's annual performance is measured. In 2025, after taking into account distributions from the FOB to The Barker Adoption Foundation (Barker) of \$804,000 (\$800,000 the previous year), the value of the endowment at the end of 2025 was \$18.7 million as compared to \$17.4 million at the end of 2024.

T. Rowe Price has ably served as the investment advisor since February 2016, and the value of the endowment has increased by 205% since that time through the end of 2025 as compared to the performance of the benchmark of 175% growth for that time period. The fee of the investment advisor in 2025 was approximately \$72,000.

The purpose of the FOB endowment is to provide a fund which retains its purchasing power for the benefit of future Barker generations while at the same time providing Barker with annual distributions for current operations. The formula the FOB Board has used for many years to determine the annual amount payable to Barker is to distribute 5% of the value of the endowment averaged over the preceding three years.

Distributions to Barker from the FOB endowment since the initial distribution in 1999 have totaled \$9.5 million.

The FOB Board consists of Nonie Akman, Rob DeLucia (Secretary), John Duff, Kamal Ben Ali, Jelani Freeman, Amy Sturtevant (Treasurer) and the undersigned. We thank the Barker community for the many years of generous support of the FOB endowment.

Rachel Firschein  
Chair, Board of Directors

Board  
of  
Trustees

2026-2027

# 2026-2027 Board of Trustees

## ALEX ALTMAN SHERMAN



Alex Altman Sherman (she/her) is an adoptee and a licensed clinical social worker. She graduated from Wesleyan University in 2006, and received her Master's in Social Work degree from Washington University in St. Louis in 2010. Alex's professional experience includes hospital and school social work, foster care, and adoption social work (she was part of Barker's Project Wait No Longer team for almost four years), and college counseling social work.

She started her private practice in 2020, and specializes in working with anxiety, perfectionism, disordered eating and negative body image, among other concerns. Outside of work, she enjoys reading, cooking, baking, traveling, being outside, and spending time with family and friends. She lives in Rockville with her husband, daughter, son, dog, and rescue cat.

Alex first became a trustee in 2022.

## DANIEL BERLER

Daniel Berler has enjoyed a career in strategic business development, and transportation engineering and planning for over 35 years. Most recently, he was Director of Government Business Development for the Battelle Memorial Institute, the largest independent non-profit scientific research institution in the world. There he oversaw capture and proposals for the organization's largest pursuits. Prior to that, his focus was on applying technology to the transportation system across both vehicles and infrastructure. He holds a B.S. in Engineering Physics from West Virginia Wesleyan College, and an M.S. in Urban and Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia.

Danny was adopted as an infant in Washington, D.C., and grew up in Alexandria, Virginia. He has been active with Barker for over ten years, first regularly attending Barker's Adult Adoptee Support Group, and more recently as a recurring guest speaker at Barker's Annual Adoption & Foster Care Conference and Pre-Adoption Training Program for prospective parents.

Daniel first became a trustee in 2025.



## FIRST VICE CHAIR

# 2026-2027 Board of Trustees

## GREGG BRUNSON-PITTS



Gregg Brunson-Pitts is the founder and CEO of Advanced Aviation Team (AAT), a private jet charter brokerage headquartered in Arlington, Virginia. With over 15 years of experience managing safe, seamless, and cost-effective charter solutions, Gregg has established AAT as the go-to provider for family offices, business leaders, national political campaigns, government agencies, and high-profile individuals worldwide. His expertise spans every U.S. state, more than 40 countries, and six continents.

Gregg's career began in the White House in 2003 under President George W. Bush, where he eventually became Director of the White House Travel Office. He played a key role in managing the complex transition of presidential travel operations from the Bush administration to the Obama administration. His experience coordinating logistics with the White House press corps, U.S. Secret Service, and senior administration staff continues to be invaluable to his work today.

In 2010, Gregg transitioned to the private sector, gaining valuable experience at respected charter brokerage firms before founding Advanced Aviation Team in 2015. His vision for AAT was clear: to provide a bespoke, white-glove aviation service that prioritizes reliability, discretion, and efficiency. Under his leadership, AAT has built a reputation for handling some of the most complex and high-profile aviation needs for candidates across the political spectrum, including as the exclusive charter provider for the Biden-Harris 2020 campaign, overseeing more than 1,130 flights.

As a recognized expert in private aviation, Gregg is frequently called upon for quotes and interviews by leading media outlets covering aviation trends, political campaign travel, aircraft availability, and the evolving business aviation landscape.

Gregg and his husband Brooks adopted two children, Thomas (9) and Abigail (6). They live in Arlington, VA and are strong advocates for adoption, as every child deserves a loving, stable home and family.

Gregg first became a trustee in 2025.

## KATHRYN BUCHER

Kathryn Bucher is a partner in the Washington, DC law firm of Wiley Rein LLP, where she is co-chair of the Health Care practice and a former member of the Firm's Management Committee. She is a graduate of Cornell Law School and the University of Vermont and has practiced law in the areas of Health Care and Government Contracts for more than thirtyfive years. She is admitted to practice before multiple federal courts and the Supreme Court of the United States and is a recipient of the Burton Award for Legal Achievement in recognition of her writing on Supreme Court jurisprudence.

Kathy is committed to maintaining and building upon Barker's history of strong governance. She previously served as Chair and Past Chair of the Barker Board of Trustees and on Barker's International Advisory Board. She currently serves as Chair of the Board's Risk Management Committee and has provided, and recruited from her Wiley colleagues, pro bono legal services for more than twenty years.

Kathy and her husband are Barker parents of a daughter and son, both adopted from Foundation for the Assistance of Abandoned Children (FANA), an orphanage in Bogota, Colombia. Kathy and Steve were drawn to FANA by its mission to provide housing and educational services to birth mothers. Kathy and Steve reside in northern Virginia.

Kathy first became a trustee in 2004.



# 2026-2027 Board of Trustees

## EUGENIA COLLIS



### PAST BOARD CHAIR

Eugenia (Gina) Collis, Corporate Treasurer of Clark Construction Group, has overall responsibility for treasury operations, strategic cash planning and investment management for the \$6 billion in revenue, 100+ year old construction and engineering firm. She also has oversight of the shared services and payroll functions for the company. Prior to joining Clark, she was Associate Treasurer for Asset Management in the Office of the Chief Financial Officer for the District of Columbia, where she had responsibility for strategic cash planning and management of all investment portfolios, short- and long-term liquidity, oversight of the District's retirement and savings plans and the accounting function. Prior to joining the District, Ms. Collis was Chief of Staff and Executive Advisor to the President/COO at Vulcan, Inc. a privately held multi-billion-dollar diversified company. Prior to Vulcan, Ms. Collis was Senior Vice President and Corporate Treasurer for Discovery Communications, Inc., a global media company. She had global responsibility for all treasury, capital and risk management functions including financing, capital structure, treasury operations, cash investments and financial and corporate risk management. She was previously Vice President and Assistant Corporate Treasurer. Before joining Discovery, Ms. Collis was Director of Treasury Operations and Portfolio Administration at Freddie Mac

Gina joined the board of The Barker Adoption Foundation in 2004, has been an active member of the finance and risk management committees, and previously served as Treasurer and Board Chair. She holds a BS degree in Business Administration from Villanova University and an MS degree in Finance from American University. As an adopted person, Gina has had a lifelong connection to the adoption community. Gina and her husband Byron have a son and reside in Bethesda.

Gina first became a trustee in 2004.

## RAJIV DEMBLA

Rajiv Dembla is a senior program manager at BAE Systems. He is responsible for the delivery of IT systems and services to the US Government customers. Prior to BAE Systems, Rajiv held various leadership and program management roles within the aerospace and defense industry. He has served as champion for diversity and inclusion initiatives within these organizations to include serving on the leadership and board roles for employee resource groups.

Rajiv and his wife have been involved with The Barker Adoption Foundation since 2012 through Barker's International Adoption Program. They adopted their daughter Samrudhi from India in 2016. Rajiv and his family continue to utilize Barker's post-adoption services and share their international adoption experience with prospective adoptive parents.

Rajiv has an undergraduate and graduate degree in electrical engineering and an MBA from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University. Rajiv and his family reside in Mclean, Virginia.

Rajiv first became a trustee in 2021.



### SECRETARY

# 2026-2027 Board of Trustees

## MEGHAN DUFFY



### SECOND VICE CHAIR

Meghan Duffy is Executive Vice President at Grantmakers for Effective Organizations, a community of funders committed to transforming philanthropic culture and practice by connecting members to the resources and relationships needed to support thriving nonprofits and communities. Working closely with the CEO and board, Meghan ensures that GEO has the strategies, systems, and resources in place to advance the mission and achieve goals for content, programming, partnerships, communications, revenue, and operations. Meghan has 25 years of experience advancing change in the philanthropic and nonprofit sector. Prior to joining GEO, Meghan served as director of special projects for San Diego Grantmakers (now Catalyst). Before moving to California, Meghan was development director at a national nonprofit LGBT health organization. She has also worked in fundraising and outreach for the LGBTQ+ Victory Fund and the Feminist Majority Foundation, and as a consultant specializing in writing and research for several other community organizations. Additionally, Meghan has taught sociology and LGBT studies as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Maryland.

Meghan earned a master's in sociology at the University of California San Diego and holds a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Maryland.

Meghan has volunteered as an executive board member, secretary, and assistant treasurer for her child's schools as well as on foundation grants committees, professional association advisory boards and peer communities. Meghan is both an adoptee and an adoptive parent. She lives in DC with her partner, daughter, and adorable border collie mix named Luna.

Meghan first became a trustee in 2023 and is nominated in 2026 for a second three-year term.

## LISA FREEMAN

Lisa Freeman (she/her) serves as the Executive Director for On-Campus Living at Johns Hopkins University. She has worked in higher education for more than 20 years and the range of her work includes leadership and policy development, student access and advocacy, risk, crisis and emergency management, strategic leadership, expanding student housing and oversight of various capital projects. Lisa has held adjunct faculty appointments at The University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill and American University teaching leadership and freshman seminar courses. Her passion for training and development has afforded her opportunities to facilitate workshops in organizational management, emotional intelligence, social justice, and diversity, equity, and inclusion topics. In her free time, Lisa enjoys international travel, and she has participated in immersive/educational focused trips to South Africa, Ecuador, and Guyana. Lisa adopted her son, Kobe in 2020 through Barker and is passionate about raising awareness for adoption in communities of color and creating support circles for single individuals in their pursuit of adoption.

Lisa has a Bachelor of Arts in Radio, Television and Film from Clark Atlanta University, a completed a dual degree master's program earning a Master of Arts in Christian Ministry with an emphasis in leadership and administration and a Master's in Business Management with honors from North Park University.

Lisa first became a trustee in 2024.



# 2026-2027 Board of Trustees

## RUCHI GILL



Ruchi G. Gill is a Counsel in the Washington, DC office of Latham & Watkins LLP, where she advises clients on US national security regulatory issues involving economic sanctions, export controls, and foreign investment. Prior to joining Latham, Ruchi served as Deputy Chief Counsel for the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and she previously spent nearly 10 years at the US Department of State in a variety of legal and policy roles. Ruchi has a J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center and a B.S. from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. Ruchi and her husband, Harinder, are adoptive parents who have been working with The Barker Adoption Foundation since 2018. They reside in Kensington, Maryland with their children (including one furry child).

“Barker helped us find one of our life's greatest gifts: our daughter. The importance Barker places on the adoption triad, including children in foster care, and the lifelong support and connections that Barker offers are irreplaceable.”

Ruchi is nominated for her first term in 2026.

## MELISSA GRAY-HUGHES

Melissa Gray-Hughes is the Chair of The Barker Adoption Foundation Board of Trustees and has been a member of the Barker community for 4 years. She is also the Associate Head of School at McLean School in Potomac, Maryland, a K-12 college preparatory school for students who learn to thrive with Dyslexia, ADHD, executive functioning challenges and academic performance anxiety. During the 2023-2024 school year, Melissa led the community as Co-Head of School. Prior to McLean, she spent over 13 years in marketing and brand management working across several industries including Financial Services, Consumer Products, Media, and Medical Nutrition.

She holds a B.A. in English from Spelman College and an M.B.A in Marketing from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. Melissa was adopted as an infant and grew up in Brooklyn, New York. She and her family currently live in Bethesda, Maryland. She is the mother of two young adult men and enjoys the performing arts, plant cultivation, Pilates, and international travel with her husband Nigel.

Melissa first became a trustee in 2021.



## BOARD CHAIR

# 2026-2027 Board of Trustees

## RUSS GUZDAR



VICE TREASURER

Russ Guzdar is the Vice President of Global Consulting for Deltek (an enterprise resource planning [ERP] software company). He is responsible for the implementation of Costpoint, the leading ERP system for Government Contractors. Prior to working for Deltek, Russ spent most of his career working in management consulting with KPMG and Corporation Service Company, helping companies with business process reengineering and product strategy. Russ holds an undergraduate degree in finance from the University of Massachusetts and an MBA from the Darden School at the University of Virginia.

Russ and his wife have been involved with The Barker Adoption Foundation since 2010 through Barker's International Adoption Program, when they adopted their son, Kai, from South Korea. Russ and his family continue to support Barker and share their experience with prospective adoptive parents.

Russ first became a trustee in 2023 and is nominated in 2026 for a second three-year term.

## ALAN HEYMANN

Alan Heymann, JD, PCC, is founder of the executive coaching and facilitation firm Peaceful Direction. He has served as an executive coach to hundreds of his fellow introverts, helping them feel seen and heard, to find balance in their lives and to unleash their superpowers in an extroverted world. Alan also specializes in coaching through career and leadership transitions.

The author of two books on leadership analogies, Alan is a member of the faculty of the Georgetown University Institute for Transformational Leadership. He spent more than two decades in public, government and nonprofit communications -- leading teams from 2 to more than 100 people. He began his career as an on-air television reporter and anchor in his native Illinois.

Alan holds a Juris Doctorate from the George Washington University Law School, an Executive Certificate in Leadership Coaching from Georgetown and a Bachelor of Science in Journalism from Northwestern.

Alan has followed a plant-based diet since 2002 and enjoys running half-marathons. A proud Barker dad, he lives with his family in Maryland. He is the son and parent of immigrants to the United States.

Alan first became a trustee in 2018.



# 2026-2027 Board of Trustees

## ANNIE LOVEJOY JENKINS



Annie Lovejoy Jenkins is a coach, mother and mentor who leads girls and young women on teams throughout the Washington, D.C. metro area. The McLean native, and former Potomac School Panther and Yale College grad now coaches lacrosse in a variety of roles for Just For Kids, DC's Hardy Middle School, Arlington Youth Lacrosse Club and Alexandria City High School, as well as offering private lessons. On any given weekday afternoon, and sometimes on Sundays, Annie is on the sidelines of a lacrosse field, cheering on our community's kids and showing them what true teamwork can be when we show up for each other -- rain or shine.

Her passion for building community is matched by an equally fervent commitment to service. Those twin engines led her to Costa Rica, after graduation, where she lived for four years and worked in natural resource conservation at The National Biodiversity Institute. Following her return stateside, Annie met and married the love of her life, John Jenkins, and jumped headlong into supporting his company Just for Kids. She fell in love with coaching young children through Just For Kids. Annie is a champion of building confidence in young girls through sports, knowing firsthand it to be a haven for growth, learning, healthy friendships and building self-esteem during the emotional and physical turbulence that is adolescence.

Annie and John, along with their daughter Grace, pursued adoption through The Barker Adoption Foundation in 2013, completing the transformative process in 2014. More than a decade later, Annie wants her family's appreciation for Barker to be evident in her every effort to help build and strengthen forever families. She restores her energy and stays strong by a steady dose of exercise, fresh air, plants, dog walks, play, travel to places warm and/or hikeable, and good times with friends at their favorite local cafes and bistros in Arlington.

Annie first became a trustee in 2024.

## MICHAEL MACFARLAND

Michael MacFarland is the owner and founder of Paloa Inc. Paloa Inc, provides Chief Architecture services to a government agency. Previously, Michael was the Vice President of Operations at Common Securitization Solutions (a subsidiary of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac). He was responsible for running the back-office operations for the issuance and bond administration for the five trillion-dollar single-family mortgage book of business. Michael is a serial entrepreneur. His specialty is applying advanced technology to solving business problems. He connected his first network to the Internet in 1987 and has been leveraging the Internet to solve business problems ever since.

Michael was adopted. He has four children, one adopted from Barker's Project Wait no Longer. He previously served for six years on the board of directors for the Center for Adoption Support and Education (CASE), including 2 years as Chairman of the Board and a year as Vice Chair. Michael currently serves as the Treasurer of the Barker Board of Trustees.

Michael first became a trustee in 2017 and is nominated in 2026 for a three-year term.



TREASURER

# 2026-2027 Board of Trustees

## ELLEN MEADE



Ellen Meade is a Research Professor in the Department of Economics at Duke University. Prior to joining the Duke faculty, she was a Special Adviser to Federal Reserve Vice Chair Richard Clarida and Senior Adviser in the Division of Monetary Affairs at the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, DC. Over the course of her career, Dr. Meade spent 25 years at the Federal Reserve bisected by 12 years in academia, primarily at the London School of Economics and as Associate Professor of Economics at American University. Her research has focused on monetary policy and communications, and central bank decision-making. She has published numerous articles and co-authored the book *Regional Monetary Integration* with Peter B. Kenen (Cambridge University Press, 2008).

Ellen was raised in Northern Virginia. She received her BA degree from Duke University and an MA and PhD in Economics from Princeton University. She and her husband, Robert Kahn, are Barker parents of two sons, both adopted from Colombia. After many years in Bethesda, Ellen and Robert relocated to North Carolina in 2022. Ellen was previously on the board of Working Credit, a Chicago nonprofit, and on the advisory board of Duke Performances.

Ellen first became a trustee in 2024.

## NATHAN PARSONS-SCHWARZ

Nathan Parsons-Schwarz is a partner and Executive Vice President at Allegiance Strategies, a public affairs consulting firm that advises high-level donors and manages political operations across a wide range of issues, including LGBT rights, artificial intelligence, and immigration.

Prior to joining Allegiance Strategies, Nathan served as a political appointee in the Kentucky state government and worked as a campaign field operative in several states.

Nathan is a native of Louisa, Kentucky and holds a B.A. in Political Science from Transylvania University. He and his husband Dustin live in Fairfax Station, Virginia with their daughter Gracie, whom they adopted with support from Barker. Nathan and Dustin are former foster parents and enjoy traveling as a family.

“Barker guided us through the home study that led to us welcoming our daughter into our lives. In a field where ethical standards can vary widely, Barker has always stood apart as an organization we trust completely.”

Nathan is nominated for his first term in 2026.



# 2026-2027 Board of Trustees

## J MCCRAY



### VICE SECRETARY

J McCray is Chief Operating Officer at Georgia Avenue Family Support, one of five Healthy Families Thriving Communities (HFTC) Collaboratives working to respond to the needs of at-risk families and children in the District of Columbia. He has dedicated more than 20 years to building resilient and adaptive nonprofits from the inside out. Previously, he was COO at Fair Chance, a capacity-building organization that partners with community-based nonprofits to achieve life-changing results for children, youth, and families in communities impacted by racism, discrimination and poverty.

Prior to that, he was COO at Grantmakers for Effective Organizations (GEO), where he helped GEO grow to a community of more than 600 grantmaking organizations committed to helping nonprofits achieve success. J has served on several boards of organizations committed to building strong nonprofits and currently chairs the board of Innovation Network, an organization dedicated to building evaluation capacity for the social sector. J and his spouse, Erin, adopted their son in 2009 with the support of The Barker Adoption Foundation in the U.S. and the KWS agency in South Korea and they have been regular donors to Barker. J and his family live in Takoma Park, Maryland.

J first became a trustee in 2024.

## JO ANN REGAN

Jo Ann R. Regan, Ph.D., MSW, FNAP is the Dean of the National Catholic School of Social Service (NCSSS) at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., USA. Prior to coming to NCSSS, she worked for nine years at the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), the national association in the United States representing social work education with over 800 accredited baccalaureate and master's degree programs and educators advancing quality social work education. Dr. Regan practiced as a social worker in the child welfare and mental health fields.

As an adoptee from the Philippines, Jo Ann has been a strong advocate for adoption issues facing adoptees and adoptive parents. Dr. Regan lives in Alexandria, VA with her husband Colonel Andrew Regan, USMC, and their son.

Jo Ann first became a trustee in 2022.



# 2026-2027 Board of Trustees

## CHAUNCEY STRONG



Chauncey Strong, originally from Newark, New Jersey, earned his BA in Social Work from Elizabeth City State University in 1991 and his MSW from Norfolk State University in 1993. With more than 30 years of experience, Chauncey is a dedicated child welfare leader and advocate. He specializes in foster care and adoption training and consulting and has worked with organizations such as the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Casey Family Programs, AdoptUSKids, and the Fairfax County Department of Family Services in Virginia, where he served as a foster care and adoption supervisor. He has also contributed his time and expertise to numerous local and national committees and boards. Since 2013, Chauncey has been an active part of the Barker community, frequently speaking at the Annual Conference, appearing in videos, and providing training for workers and parents.

As an adoptee with lived experience in foster care, Chauncey brings both professional expertise and personal insight to his work. He is deeply committed to ensuring that all children and youth have permanent families, maintain sibling connections, and are heard and valued. He lives in Alexandria, Virginia, with his wife and daughter.

“If even one child/youth still needs a safe, loving, and permanent family, our work is not finished. If families are still searching for guidance, support, and the resources to thrive, Barker must remain a trusted partner in their journey. 80 years from now, Barker should stand as a source of stability, compassion, and possibility, ensuring that every child, youth, and family has not just hope for a brighter day, but a clear path toward a positive future.”

Chauncey is nominated for his first term in 2026.

## AAREN KEITH RICCIOTTI

Aaren Keith Ricciotti was raised in Savannah, Georgia, and earned her B.F.A. from Shenandoah Conservatory. Her journey brought her to the Washington, DC area, where she became deeply involved in the theater community. After several years in New Mexico, Aaren recently relocated back to Washington, DC, where she now resides with her husband and their one-year-old daughter.

Aaren’s adoption journey began in 2012 when she placed her child through Barker—a decision that, at the time, she couldn’t have imagined would bring so much vibrancy and love into her life. She remains close with her son’s adoptive family, nurturing that relationship with care and consistency.

Over the years, she has stayed closely connected to Barker, attending the Birth Parent Support Group and becoming a strong advocate for birth mothers in the adoption community. Aaren recorded a video series sharing her story and has spoken on numerous panels at Barker’s Annual Conference. She embraces the “adoptive solar system” model, where the child is at the center, surrounded by orbits of love formed by parents, birth parents, extended family, and all who play a role in the child’s life.

An artist and adventurer at heart, Aaren continues to draw inspiration from the people and places around her.

Aaren first became a trustee in 2021.



# 2026-2027 Board of Trustees

## GEORGE WOLOHOJIAN



George Wolohojian received his bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College and an MPA and Ph.D. from Syracuse University. He began work as an academic, teaching and writing at Northeastern University and the University of Maryland and later transitioned to a federal career at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Thereafter, he became a Senior Executive with the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Now in retirement, he serves as the outside member of the Animal Care and Use Committee for the National Cancer Institute at NIH, where he meets monthly with a team of doctors, researchers, and veterinarians to review research proposals and practice.

George is also an active member of his faith community. He served as Board Chair for Christ Episcopal School, as Senior Warden at Christ Episcopal Church, Capital Campaign co-chair, and is currently a lector and lay eucharistic minister. His current community service roles include Treasurer for his Homeowners Association, and Fundraising Head Agent for his Dartmouth class. He and his wife, Donna, are Barker parents of two adult "thirty something" children, Jessica, and Daniel (and his wife, Laura). As a family they have actively supported Barker events for the past thirty-six years. When their children were younger, the family served for six years as Cradle Care participants and cared for thirteen infants, while they awaited placement with their adoptive parents.

George first became a trustee in 2022.

## JEANETT YONEMOTO

Jeanett Yonemoto has over two decades of experience in finance at Bankers Trust/Deutsche Bank in New York and London and then Fannie Mae in Washington, D.C. She eventually stepped away from banking to support her family's growing needs. Since then, Jeanett has held leadership positions on the boards and executive committees of independent schools' parent associations. She is currently a trustee on the Board of Friends of Mitchell Park and serves as trustee and Treasurer on the board of the D.C. Capital Area Branch of the International Dyslexia Association. Jeanett holds an MBA/MA joint degree from The Wharton School and Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. She received a B.S. in Foreign Service from the Georgetown University.

Jeanett and her husband, John, adopted two girls at infancy from China. The oldest is pursuing a career in nursing in New York City, and the youngest is an adolescent. They girls keep their parents on their toes. Jeanett and John enjoy exploring DC on foot, attending comedy shows, experimenting various culinary flavors, and doting on their cat.

"It was unfathomable to me that my adopted children would struggle with identity, grief and anger when their world seemed so perfect from the outside. Barker helped us understand that our love must wrap around the complexity of the adoption journey."

Jeanett is nominated for her first term in 2026.



*Friends*  
*of*  
*Barker*

2026-2027

# 2026-2027 Friends of Barker

## NONIE AKMAN, DIRECTOR



Renominated to a three-year term: Nonie Akman is a native Washingtonian who has served on many local non-profits boards including Goodwill Industries, The Social Center, The England Foundation and above all The Barker Adoption Foundation. Nonie was on the board of The Barker Adoption Foundation from 1994-2006. She served as President of the Board from 2003-2005. She was the first non-Barker adoptive parent to serve as President. Nonie has been active in many non-profits such as The Shoah Foundation, where she had the opportunity to interview over 100 holocaust survivors, Hospice Caring, where she ran support groups, etc.

Nonie retired from Montgomery Hospice but is still running cancer support groups for Hope Connections for Cancer Support in Bethesda. Prior to her career change into the social services, she served as Senior VP of Marketing and a Board member at the Hechinger Company for 20 years.

Nonie has an MBA from Harvard Business School, a MS from Johns Hopkins University in Counseling and a BA from Tulane University. Nonie is married to Larry Akman, also a native Washingtonian. She has three children who all live in the Washington area and is the proud grandmother of Sydney, Griffin, Rory, Austin, and Golda with another grandchild on the way.

## KAMAL ALI, DIRECTOR

Kamal Ali was born in 1962 at Providence Hospital in Washington, DC. He attended Shepherd Elementary School, Georgetown Day School, and the University of Pennsylvania. He grew up working at his family's business, Ben's Chili Bowl, as a teenager. He and his wife Sonya Jamil Ali adopted two children through Barker.

Kamal is a board member of the Ben's Chili Bowl Foundation and has served as president at both the U Street Theatre Foundation and the Mid City Biz Association. He is also active with 100 Fathers and Georgetown Day School.



# 2026-2027 Friends of Barker

## ROB DELUCIA, SECRETARY

Rob DeLucia joined the Friends of Barker Board of Directors in November 2002. Rob was President of the Board from 2005 through 2016. Rob also served on The Barker Adoption Foundation Board of Trustees from 1993 to 1999. His fundraising experiences on behalf of Barker date back to 1988. Now retired, Rob worked for 38 years at airline trade associations focusing on Human Resources and Labor Relations issues. He has a B.A. from the University of Delaware and a J.D. from Georgetown University.



## JOHN DUFF, DIRECTOR

John M. Duff, Jr. was a Managing Director of Duff Ackerman Goodrich LLC and DAG Ventures, a private equity and venture capital firm based primarily in the San Francisco Bay Area. He is a graduate of Princeton University and Yale Law School. John has served as Past Chair of the Barker Board of Trustees and as Board President of the Friends of Barker. John and his wife, Viki, are Barker adoptive parents of a son and a daughter.

## RACHEL FIRSCHEIN, PRESIDENT

Renominated to a three-year term: Rachel Firschein is an Executive Director of Taxable Fixed Income Sales and Trading at Raymond James & Associates in Washington, DC. In this capacity, she manages investments in single-family housing loans and securities. She has an MBA from George Washington University and a BA from Rutgers University.

Rachel is actively involved as a volunteer with a number of charitable and educational organizations in the Washington, D.C. area. In addition to serving on the board of the Friends of Barker, she has served in board leadership roles for the Gladney Fund, the endowment for the Gladney Center for Adoption in Fort Worth, Texas, the Washington International School, and the Board of Ambassadors at the Washington Ballet. Rachel and her husband Joseph are the proud Barker adoptive parents of two daughters, Jenny and Ava.



# 2026-2027 Friends of Barker



## JELANI FREEMAN, DIRECTOR

Jelani Freeman is a community leader, attorney and advocate who has dedicated his life to public service. In 2011, Jelani was sworn into the New York State Bar by the very same court system that emancipated him from the foster care system at 18 years old. Jelani earned a law degree from Howard University School of Law. He also has a bachelor's degree in political science and history from the University at Buffalo and a master's degree in history from American University. Currently he works as an Attorney for the US Department of Energy.

## AMY STURTEVANT, DIRECTOR

Amy Sturtevant is a native Washingtonian and currently lives in DC with her husband, Peter. She is a Senior Vice President at RBC Wealth Management where she focuses on providing investment advisory services to individuals, families, foundations and corporate retirement plans. She is a graduate from Mount Holyoke College with a BA degree in Political Science. Amy has four children, triplet sons and a daughter. Amy previously served on the Barker Board of Trustees.



# *Nominating Committee*

*2026-2027*

# 2026-2027 Nominating Committee

## GERRI DIAMOND BEURLE



Gerri Diamond Beurle is a certified educator and school administrator who spent ten years working in MCPS. In 2022, she joined Weinstein Educational Consulting to support families, students, educators, and schools. Her consulting work focuses on student advocacy, parent coaching, school placement, and curriculum design.

Gerri is a lifelong swimmer whose role on the pool deck has pivoted from swim coach to swim parent. She lives in Potomac, MD with her husband, two children, and golden doodle puppy; who all love spending time at the beach. Barker has been a part of Gerri's life since she was placed with her forever family at birth.

Gerri is nominated for her first term in 2026.

## JON ELLENBOGEN

Jon Ellenbogen became a Financial Advisor in 1999 to help families, foundations, and organizations better manage their wealth and invest in a socially responsible manner. Jon founded Impact Capital Strategies in 2016. His areas of expertise include creating customized investment strategies designed to meet long-term goals.

Jon enjoys socializing, music and yoga. He currently resides in Washington, D.C., with his wife, three children, one of whom was adopted through Barker, and two dogs.

Jon is nominated for a second term in 2026.



## ADRENA IFILL



Adrena Ifill is a connector and communicator who uses multiple mediums to spotlight mission-aligned people, projects, and organizations. She elevates the power of narrative and first-person authorship, with a focus on amplifying stories of care and centering women of color leaders often overlooked in historical accounts.

She is widely consulted for her expertise in communication strategy, project management, media production, organizational development, and equity and inclusion. As CEO and Founder of DoubleBack Global Group, Adrena curates cultural and historical assets, explores personal and public archives, and produces engaging, high-impact events. She is known for leading multidimensional teams to execute complex projects with exceptional results.

Her award-winning creative work spans writing, directing, and film production. Her documentary on Rep. Robert Smalls received national and international recognition. A 2020 AADHum Scholar at the University of Maryland, her work in archival access and equity has also been recognized by the Society of American Archivists.

A mother who chose adoption to share her life and love, Adrena aims to greet every day as an adventure. She is also graduate of Williams College, Howard University, and George Washington University and serves on several educational and philanthropic boards.

Adrena is nominated for her first term in 2026.

*Your support creates  
brighter futures.*

**Your partnership powers Barker's mission to serve children, families, and the broader adoption community.**

- Make a gift
- Share your story
- Volunteer your time or talents
- Attend an upcoming event

*Thank you for being part  
of the Barker family.*

**DONATE**



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