

## Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council Members



### **Tom Lukasik – 4KIDS of South Florida and Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council Chairman**

Tom and his wife, Linda, were successful business owners for many years, but in the early 1990s, God began to show them that making a difference was much more important than simply making a living. They started working with foster kids in 1994 as group home house parents, and since then have fostered more than 30 children. Tom has a bachelor's degree in business administration and more than 25 years of management experience. Tom believes in teamwork and has a heart to do "whatever it takes" to meet the needs of the children and families that 4KIDS serves. One of Tom's goals is to bring the church community together to

take care of all of the children in the foster care system.

**Can assist others with:** Adoption, child abuse prevention, foster care/aging out, prevention/diversion, and independent living

E-mail: [toml@4kidsofsfl.org](mailto:toml@4kidsofsfl.org)



### **Sheila S. Hopkins – Florida Catholic Conference and Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council Vice Chairman**

Sheila Hopkins began her service to the Catholic Conference in July 2002. She represents the Conference on issues of human life, dignity and social justice before the legislative and executive branches of government and private organizations. She works with Florida's diocesan respect life directors through the State Pro-Life Coordinating Committee and staffs the Conference's Prison Ministry Committee. She initiates legislative networking with various groups, monitors and participates in the state appropriations process, and coordinates legislative and advocacy projects throughout the state. She serves as vice-chairman of the Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council and on the board of Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty.

**Can assist others with:** Legislative/Policy

E-mail: [ssnowhop@gmail.com](mailto:ssnowhop@gmail.com)



### **Richard Albertson – Live the Life Ministries**

Richard Albertson is the Founding President and CEO of *Live the Life*, a statewide, faith based 501c3 organization dedicated to strengthening marriages and families. Founded in 1998 and headquartered in Tallahassee, Florida, Live the Life has regional offices in Jacksonville, Lakeland and Bradenton with plans to expand in the Ft. Lauderdale area.

**Can assist others with:** Corrections/DJJ reentry, fatherhood, mentoring, youth in DJJ, Marriage Education, Relationship Education, and Sexual Risk Avoidance for Youth

E-mail: [richard@livethelife.org](mailto:richard@livethelife.org)

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### **Pastor Kirt Anderson – Naples Community Church**

Pastor Anderson is the pastor of Naples Community Church in Naples, Florida. He brings over thirty years of ministry experience to the leadership team at NCC. Kirt played varsity basketball at UCSB, went on to Princeton Seminary, and earned his doctorate from Fuller Seminary. He is the disgustingly proud father of three, father in law of two, and grandfather of Owen Christopher and Ellery Rose.

**Can assist others with:** Educational tutoring, food services, homelessness, human trafficking, legislative/policy, mentoring, and substance abuse

E-mail: [kirtea@naplescommunitychurch.org](mailto:kirtea@naplescommunitychurch.org)



### **Dr. Jerry Haag – Florida Baptist Children’s Home**

Dr. Jerry Haag serves as president of Florida Baptist Children’s Homes. He received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Baylor University and earned a doctorate in finance and real estate in 1995 from the University of Texas at Arlington. He served from 1995 to 1997 as an assistant professor at Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kan., where he was named the Mortar Board Top Professor in 1995 and 1996. From 1997 to 1998, he taught at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., before joining Shades Mountain Baptist Church in Birmingham as administrative pastor from 1998-2000. He also has corporate work experience with AT&T and is a Certified Financial Planner. From 2000-2007, Dr. Haag served as president and CEO of the South Texas Children’s Home in Beeville.

In 2007, Dr. Haag joined the staff at Florida Baptist Children’s Homes as the ninth president in the 108-year history of the Florida Baptist Children’s Homes. During his tenure as president, he has led efforts that expanded the number of ministry sites from nine to 14 locations across Florida, launched a successful international childcare ministry to help children in countries around the world and established numerous partnerships with churches and nonprofit organizations. These efforts have increased the number of children and families served by more than 200 percent.

**Can assist others with:** Adoption, child abuse prevention, fatherhood, foster care/ aging out, grant writing, human trafficking, independent living, and prevention/diversion

E-mail: [jerry.haag@fbchomes.org](mailto:jerry.haag@fbchomes.org)



### **Reverend James Perry Davis – Christ to Inmates, Inc.**

President and Founder of Christ to Inmates, Inc and a chaplain at the Tomoka Correctional Institution in Daytona Beach. He has received numerous honors from the State of Florida, Florida Baptist Convention, Volusia County Department of Corrections and the Rotary for his volunteer services and ministry.

E-mail: [christtoinmates@cfl.rr.com](mailto:christtoinmates@cfl.rr.com)

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### **Pastor Stephen “Spike” Hogan – Chets Creek Church**

Spike attended college earning a degree in church music and met his wife, Kitty. He later earned his Master’s Degree from Southwestern Baptist Seminary in Texas. Spike has served at several churches as well as on the staff of the Florida Baptist Convention. In 1998 he began working with the Core Team that would launch Chets Creek Church. During the last 13 years serving as the Lead Pastor, he has experienced some of the greatest ministry days of his life. Spike continues to lead Chets to passionately pursue the vision that birthed the church: "To be a church for the unchurched, here and around the world."

**Can assist others with:** Corrections/DJJ reentry, leadership strategy, military/veterans, and substance abuse

E-mail: [spike@chetscreek.com](mailto:spike@chetscreek.com)



### **Dr. Gretchen Kerr – Northland, A Church Distributed**

Dr. Gretchen Kerr helps Northland build collaborative relationships within the community and among government, nonprofits and other churches. Gretchen helped to develop Resource Point ([www.resourcepoint.org](http://www.resourcepoint.org)), a collaborative for case management, data collection and community collaboration, and provides the knowledge of resources within the community. Social justice issues are at the heart of Gretchen’s ministry activities, most recently anti-human trafficking endeavors and serving orphans through foster care and adoption opportunities.

Gretchen has a bachelor’s degree in public administration, a master’s degree in nonprofit management and received her Doctorate of Ministry at Bakke Graduate University in the Spring of 2012. Originally from Scituate, Mass., Gretchen and her husband, Greg, have three children, Tiffany, Trevor and

Justin.

Email: [gretchen.kerr@northlandchurch.net](mailto:gretchen.kerr@northlandchurch.net)



### **Carolyn Ketchel, LCSW, MSW – Private Practitioner**

Carolyn has been a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and in private practice for many years. She graduated from the University of Maryland School of Social Work in 1979 and has worked in a variety of settings with families and individuals. She currently has a radio program on WPSM 91.1 FM during the weekdays, called “*A Christian Perspective with Carolyn Ketchel.*” Her areas of expertise include relationships, Parent/child issues, marriage, marriage preparation, divorce recovery, adoption, PTSD from abortion, anxiety, depression, grief reaction, women’s issues and faith issues.

**Can assist others with:** Adoption, disaster relief, food services, health initiatives, homelessness, mental health, military/veterans, and single mothers

E-mail: [cnknewcomer@cox.net](mailto:cnknewcomer@cox.net)

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### **Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner – Temple Solel**

Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner, Temple Solel's senior rabbi, believes that the dynamic opportunities offered by 21st Century America offer unique, creative venues for Jewish religious programming. He believes that participation in the Temple should be relaxing and enjoyable, spiritual and engaging, serious and fun. Nothing is more important to Rabbi Kurtz-Lendner than his relationships with Temple members.

**Can assist others with:** Connections to other agencies in my region of the state to be able to expand State's efforts to extend services to more citizens

E-mail: [rabbijkl@templesolel.com](mailto:rabbijkl@templesolel.com)



### **Matthew McCluskey – GoTo Nations**

Matthew is a native of Jacksonville, FL and has felt the call for missionary service on his life since a young age. He has been serving with GoTo Nations since the fall of 2011. Matthew has a heart for the Russian-speaking peoples of Eastern Europe as well as the Turkic-speaking peoples of Central Asia. He speaks Russian, German and Uzbek and his specific desire is to see local leaders and ministries raised up in the Eurasian region. He focuses his efforts on discipleship, church planting, as well as raising up houses of prayer. Last year Matthew took part in a church plant in the Ukraine, and this year, he will be leading a team to plant several churches in Central Russia.

E-mail: [matthew.mccl@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.mccl@gmail.com)



### **Dr. Leonel Mesa – New Day Centers**

Dr. Mesa is the President/CEO of Reflections Wellness Center and Chairman of the Florida Commission on Marriage and Family Support Initiatives. He is a licensed mental health counselor and is active in the American Association of Christian Counselors, Latino Alliance Against Domestic Violence and the Miami-Dade Critical Incident Stress Management Team.

**Can assist others with:** Domestic violence, elderly, fatherhood, mental health, persons with disabilities, substance abuse, family preservation, kinship care, and parenting

E-mail: [drmesa@newdaycenters.com](mailto:drmesa@newdaycenters.com)

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### **Cherron “CC” Newby – Acts 2:44 Group, LLC**

Cherron Newby moved to Florida from Georgia in June of 1998. Born and raised in Washington, D.C., she started a construction final cleaning business that hired the homeless and ex-offenders. She also provided transportation and a meal to her employees. Cherron has employed as many as 45 individuals. Prior to starting her business, she worked as an Administrative Assistant for a former Congressman, at the Pentagon and with the Department of Defense. Cherron is an authorized OSHA trainer and she coaches small businesses. She also volunteers and does fundraising for various organizations. She is a mother of three daughters, two of whom are veterans, a goddaughter, three grandsons and two granddaughters.

**Can assist others with:** Corrections/DJJ reentry, disaster relief, educational tutoring, elderly populations, family preservation, fatherhood, food services, foster care/aging out, homelessness, independent living, kinship care, single mothers, workforce/employment, and parenting

E-mail: [cctrain-consult@live.com](mailto:cctrain-consult@live.com)



### **Rabbi Sholom Ciment – Chabad Lubavitch of Greater Boynton Beach**

Rabbi Sholom Ciment a native of Brookline, Mass. attended the New England Hebrew Academy, a private day school and High School in Brookline. Post High School, he attended two years at The Oholei Torah Seminary, and another 6 years at The Central Yeshiva of Tomchei Tmimim in Brooklyn, NY where he received his Rabbinical Ordination.

He has served in Rabbinical internship positions throughout North America. One such internship took him to for one summer to Hong Kong and China.

He was Director of The Machne Israel Development Fund, The social Services arm of of The International Chabad-Lubavitch Jewish Movement from 1990-1994.

In 1994 he relocated to Boynton Beach, Florida where he has since served. Then undeveloped, The Rabbi and his wife Dina just celebrated the completion of their 18th year of pioneering Jewish community Building. His community is comprised of many hundreds of families, surrounding a five acre, multi-million dollar "Campus for Living Judaism" serving tens of thousands throughout the Palm Beach County region of South Florida.

E-mail: [cimentsh@cs.com](mailto:cimentsh@cs.com)



### **Pam Olsen – International House of Prayer**

Pam began the International House of Prayer Tallahassee with her husband Tenney, and serves as its Executive Director. It is a house of prayer that unites and establishes individuals in intimacy with Christ through prayer and worship. We are committed to prayer, worship, fasting, healing and the Great Commission. The members intercede for God to move in lives, cities, states and nations.

**Can assist others with:** Adoption, human trafficking, and legislative/policy

E-mail: [pam@ihoptallahassee.org](mailto:pam@ihoptallahassee.org)

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### **Pastor Carl E. Reeves – Greater Mount Lily Baptist Church**

Carl is a graduate of Florida A&M University and an honorably discharged United States Air Force Veteran (1993). On the Second Sunday of May in 1996, at the Saint John Divine Missionary Baptist Church, Brother Reeves' heart was pricked by the Spirit of God at which time Brother Reeves surrendered, repented of sin and received Jesus Christ as his "Lord and Savior". Through the Church's holistic Bible Study, the District Congress, the State Congress, the National Congress, Seminary and Theological Studies at the West Florida Baptist Institute, Brother Reeves has matured as a Servant/Leader and Believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Can assist others with:** Homelessness and youth in DJJ

E-mail: [greatermountlily@aol.com](mailto:greatermountlily@aol.com)



### **Pastor Charles Scriven – Corinth Christian Fellowship**

Pastor Charles Scriven is dedicated to serving others. He has spent the past 8 years and more than 800 hours of his time volunteering at Capital Regional Hospital in Tallahassee, where he also serves as Hospice Chaplain twice a week. Pastor Scriven is also actively engaged with Meals on Wheels and Project Annie, a grassroots non-profit organization that provides meals and clothing services to over 2,000 Tallahassee residents annually. Pastor Scriven's public service career includes serving as a Captain in the United States Army and as a Division Chief of law enforcement in Duval County. He earned his Ph.D. from Florida State University.

**Can assist others with:** Child abuse prevention, corrections/DJJ reentry, disaster relief, domestic violence, elderly populations, fatherhood, food services, homelessness, independent living, mentoring, substance abuse, and youth in DJJ programs

E-mail: [charlesjscriven@yahoo.com](mailto:charlesjscriven@yahoo.com)

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### **Samuel Sipes – Lutheran Services of Florida, Inc.**

Sam Sipes has a background in leadership roles in nonprofit organizations, as well as experience in child welfare, social services and programs for senior citizens. Lutheran Services Florida is a statewide, nonprofit human services agency dedicated to helping all people in need regardless of religious affiliation, age or national origin. Headquartered in Tampa, the agency has more than 60 programs located throughout Florida. Since it was established in 1982, LSF has helped nearly 900,000 men, women and children. LSF's mission is to bring God's healing, hope and help to people in need.

E-mail: [ssipes@lsfnet.org](mailto:ssipes@lsfnet.org)



### **Patricia "Pat" Smith – Department of Children and Families**

Pat Smith is an executive with more than 15 years of progressive experience in Public Relations and Mass Communications. With a background in news reporting, production and media relations, she understands what it takes to create a successful, results-driven campaign and how to tell your story in a way that is compelling and enticing to the media.

Pat currently works for the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) in the Office of External Affairs as the Community Engagement Manager. Prior to assuming this position, she was appointed as the first African-American at DCF to serve as Press Secretary.

Pat is a motivational speaker and plays an active role in minority and women's issues as she demonstrated while serving two years as the chair of the Tallahassee Chamber Professional Women's Forum, taught women's Bible study for five years in Tallahassee and was the former radio talk show host on WTAL 1450 AM for "The Woman In You" show.

In 2006, she was nominated as a finalist for the Distinguished Leadership Pacesetter Award and was the recipient of the 1999 NAACP Black Achiever Award. Other highlights include winning two Judges' Image Awards from the Florida Public Relations Associations (FPRA), Capital Chapter in 2009 and 2011 for producing a 30-second Public Service Announcement (PSA) for television.

Pat is a true Public Servant in her community. She is a 2011 Certified Public Manager (CPM) and graduate from the Florida State Center for Public Management at Florida State University. Other honors and awards include being named by the *Tallahassee Democrat* as one of Tallahassee's "25 Women You Need to Know" and was also appointed by the Leon County Commissioners to serve on the inaugural Leon County Status of Women and Girls Commission.

**Can assist others with:** Adoption, mentoring, and single mothers

E-mail: [pat\\_smith@dcf.state.fl.us](mailto:pat_smith@dcf.state.fl.us)

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### **Blaine Whitt – Xtreme Soulutions**

Blaine has a passion, an Xtreme passion to help others. Thus, Xtreme Soulutions. He knows all too well that it is in the “soul” of man, and the inner workings of the system where change needs to take place. He is the Founder and President of Xtreme Soulutions and Senior Pastor and Founder of Christian Disciples International.

A native to Florida, Blaine Whitt has a passion for people and wealth of experience. Previously he was a business owner, training and empowering leaders for the past 20 years throughout the world. He mentors high school and college students, business owners, community leaders, as well as students and pastor in seven different countries. Currently, he preaches and mentors in Lowell Correctional Institution. Blaine has been married for 36 year, has two daughters, two son in laws, and six grandchildren. Blaine’s passions include: Loving and serving Jesus Christ, playing with his grandkids, watching them grow, and mentoring them.

E-mail: [bwhitt@xtremesoulutions.com](mailto:bwhitt@xtremesoulutions.com)



### **Karim Veerjee – Florida Hospital**

A local to Florida since 1982, Karim Veerjee completed his Bachelor’s Degree in Industrial Engineering from the University of South Florida in 1989. After spending a few years in the work force, Karim returned to school, and obtained a Master’s Degree in Health Services Management from the University of St. Francis in 1998. Karim is also fluent in two languages, English and Urdu.

Currently serving as the Director of Information Services at Florida Hospital in Tampa, Florida, Karim has spent the last 23 years leading technology implementation at the hospital. Beginning his career as a systems analyst, Karim’s dedication to achieving excellence quickly led him to progress to a Project Manager, Senior Project Manager, and then to the position he has held for the past 7 years, the Director of Information Services.

While Karim has undoubtedly achieved much success in his professional life, for the past 30 years, Karim has also contributed greatly to another part of his life that is close and dear to his heart, his service to the local community. His journey in community service began as early as his education and career, when from 1993 to 1996, he served a ministerial position in his prayer center, offering pastoral care to the local community. Karim’s journey continued forward when in 1999, he began a 6 year service as a Regional Member for the Council for Florida. Serving specifically as a Tampa Bay Management Committee Chair, he led an enthusiastic team that prioritized and emphasized initiatives for education, a healthy lifestyle, and economic stability. At the end of his six year period in 2005, Karim then took on another 7 years as the Regional Florida Chairman for the Ismaili Tariqah and Religious Education Board, also known as ITREB, a board that promotes not only religious education, but emphasizes the daily practice of ethics and morals that stem from one’s religious beliefs in one’s daily life.

Currently, Karim serves as the Florida Chairman for Aga Khan Foundation. The **Aga Khan Foundation (AKF)** focuses on a small number of specific development problems by forming intellectual and financial partnerships with organizations sharing its objectives. Most Foundation grants are made to grassroots organizations testing innovative approaches in the field. With a small staff, a host of cooperating agencies and thousands of volunteers, the Foundation reaches out to vulnerable populations on four continents, irrespective of their race, religion, political persuasion or gender. Karim is also a Regional member for

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Communications and Publications, dealing specifically with outreach and in-reach within the local communities. Last, Karim serves as a National Facilitator to conduct sessions with different age groups regarding the incorporation of Ethics in our daily lives.

Along with a successful career and unwavering dedication to community service, Karim holds his family as his utmost priority. Karim has been married for 22 years, and has three beautiful daughters with his lovely wife. In his spare time, which is available to Karim quite sparingly, he enjoys the outdoors while playing tennis or walking, and also aspires to learn to play Golf.

E-mail: [karimveerjee@gmail.com](mailto:karimveerjee@gmail.com)



### **Pastor Reno Zunz – Idlewild Baptist Church**

Reno Zunz has been a Minister of Family Life at Idlewild Baptist Church in Lutz, Florida for 29 years. He received his Bachelor's of Science degree from Georgia Tech and Master's of Divinity from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been married to his wife Sherri for nearly thirty years. They have three adult children and are expecting their first grandchild in August.

**Can assist others with:** Adoption, disaster relief, and fatherhood

E-mail: [rzunz@idlewild.org](mailto:rzunz@idlewild.org)