

BIOGRAPHY

Mary McMurtrey

President

The Gateway Center for Giving

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Mary McMurtrey is currently the President of the Gateway Center for Giving (formerly The Metropolitan Association for Philanthropy). Prior to joining The Center, she served as the Executive Director of Boys Hope Girls Hope St. Louis for and before changing sectors to human services she served as the Executive Director of the Wildlife Rescue Center (now the Missouri Wildlife Center). Before entering the field of nonprofit management, Mary was the communications officer for the Public Policy Research Center at the University of Missouri-St. Louis where she was recruited to create a new position within the PPRC and to direct the organization's communications and marketing efforts as an established professional entity in the St. Louis policy arena with a focus on both regional and national issues.

Mary's education and training began at Augsburg College in Minneapolis, Minnesota where she studied English Literature and Gender Studies. While there, she worked on a national study tracking the behavior of girl gangs in the Los Angeles as well as research tracking the political trends and outcomes of women pursuing religious ordination. After graduating, she moved back to the St. Louis area to pursue her graduate studies at UM-St. Louis in the Public Policy Administration and Nonprofit Management and Leadership programs. There she worked closely with community organizations to build relationships and coalitions between nonprofit groups to help increase effectiveness and service capacity. She worked on the strategic plan for the Cooperating School Board as well as the creation of the Nonprofit Executive-Trustee Leadership Academy – a year long training program designed to bring board leaders and nonprofit staffers together for training and technical assistance for overall organizational improvement.

As President of the Gateway Center for Giving, Mary McMurtrey helps grantmakers and other infrastructure agencies come together around issues affecting the St. Louis community. The Center is a membership organization that represents private and family foundations, individuals, and corporate foundations and giving programs in the St. Louis region. Mary has worked in the nonprofit arena for over a decade and in that time has dedicated her life to strengthening the sector so that agencies have the broadest reach and most effective services for the clients' they serve.

Mary serves on several boards including the Advisory Board of the Better Business Bureau of St. Louis, the Steering Committee for the Statewide Association of Nonprofits, the Women's Foundation of Greater St. Louis, the St. Mary's Hospital Foundation, and the Advisory Board of the Nonprofit Management and Leadership Program at UM-St. Louis. She is involved with the St. Louis Planned Giving Council as a contributor to their 2011 Legacy Awards Committee and regularly lends her experience to nonprofits and the community including the University City Children's Center and the Mission Continues as their current board chair. She is both a mentor to young women entering the nonprofit field as well as a community advocate who shares her knowledge freely and broadly within the community. Mary lives in University City with her husband Michael and their children, Sophia and Lyla.