

# Partner Organizations Representative

## Free Arts

- Matt Sandoval, MSW, MEd

## New Pathways for Youth

- Karen Johnson, Ph.D.

## Gabriel's Angels

- Melissa Steimer, M.P.A

## Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Az

- Jolie Armstrong







## Matt Sandoval, MSW, MEd

Matt Sandoval, M.S.W., M.Ed. is an Arizona native and is the Executive Director of Free Arts for Abused Children of Arizona. He is a licensed master social worker with over fifteen years' experience in youth mentoring, education programming, and nonprofit management. He holds a current associate therapist license with the Arizona Board of Behavioral Health. Matt is the producer and appears frequently on "Canvas of the Heart" which is a free YouTube webcast and audio podcast on art-based mentoring







## Karen Johnson, Ph.D.

Dr. Karen Johnson comes from a long and impactful career in education and development, including 27 years of leadership as Vice President of Community Relations at Midwestern University.

Karen has been the President and CEO of New Pathways for Youth since September 2021.





## Melissa Steimer, M.P.A

Melissa Steimer started as Gabriel's Angels Chief Executive Officer in June of 2021. She brings extensive experience in nonprofit executive leadership, fundraising and strategic planning to support organization growth. Steimer, started her nonprofit career almost 23 years ago when she served in a development role for an Iowa nonprofit that served at-risk youth with specialized treatment for emotional, behavioral, and psychiatric needs. She went on to serve in numerous executive leadership roles for both local and national animal welfare organizations and prior to Gabriel's Angels, was in an executive leadership role with one of Gabriel's Angels longstanding partners, UMOM New Day Centers.







Jolie Armstrong (She/Her)

BBBS of Central Arizona

Director of Community Based Programs





# Plenary Speakers/Artists

- Maven
- Frank Thompson
- Folade
- Terra Schaad
- Darryl Tonemah
- Niamey Thomas



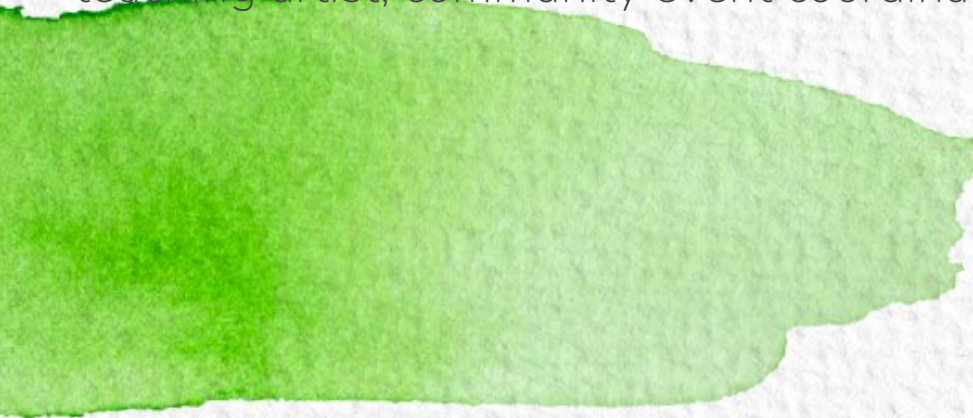


## Maven

### Professional Teaching Artist/DJ



Born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona, Maven has made it his duty to uplift and service his community by way of beat making, emceeing, and teaching artistry. With a strong background in audio engineering and the art of DJ, Maven has had the privilege of participating in multiple nationwide tours, music events, and collaboration projects at a professional level since 2016. Today, Maven continues to share his passion for various Hip-Hop disciplines with youth around the valley as a full-time teaching artist, community event coordinator, and DJ.







## Frank Thompson, MBA

Frank, founder of the Arizona Rhythm Connection (AZRC), is a professional drum circle facilitator and motivational speaker. Based in Scottsdale, AZ, the AZRC has facilitated rhythm events throughout the United States for, Abbott Labs, Campbell's Soup, The Canadian Construction Association, Gambro Inc., Arizona Dept of Health Services, Prudential, Banner Health, University of Arizona, Arizona State, and many others. He has been facilitating rhythm for over 25 years, and also teaches the funniest hand drumming classes for beginners in the greater Phoenix area. Frank has dedicated his life towards using recreational music to help individuals and organizations "Keep to Their Beat" while "Living to Play and Playing to Live!"





# Folade

Folade a.k.a. Taji Maalik is a second-generation musician, multi-percussionist, vocalist, and dancer who has dedicated himself to the art of music for over 25 years. He developed a passion for working with the youth in his community in New York City before taking his talents to Minnesota. With a degree in Child Development, he shares and directs the same passion for the arts through Drums are Life, an organization that provides programming to youth and adults in the community through cultural awareness, music, song, and dance from around the world. His rich performance history includes many national and international venues such as the Jazz Café (London), National Black Theater of Harlem (NYC), International Music & Dance Cultural Tourism Festival (Beijing), and Ethnic Dance Festival (San Fran.). Now residing in Arizona, he continues to provide cultural enlightenment and education to the community through the study of percussion music, dance, and visual art of the African Diaspora.





# Terra Schaad



Terra Schaad, is the Executive Director and founder of Hunkapi Programs, Inc. and Hunkapi Farms, in Scottsdale, Arizona where the focus is “teaching the world to fear less and love more” through equine assisted psychotherapy and somatic healing. Terra holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Pre-Veterinary Medicine from Texas A&M University, a Master of Counseling Psychology from Arizona State University and holds specialty training in Somatic Experience. In the years 2010-2012, Terra had the extraordinary opportunity to live in Italy and work at the University of Iowa’s CIMBA, and international MBA Business program. Her time there allowed her to lead and coach international students and executives through a rigorous leadership development program while researching the effect of applying neurobiofeedback, psychological assessments, and mindfulness on emotional regulation in leadership and the workplace. For the past 23 years, Terra has combined her love of horses and her passion to help people live optimally. Terra has been honored by the Arizona Capitol Times with the “Women Achievers of Arizona in 2019”, recognized by Governor Douglas A. Ducey when given the State of Arizona Commendation in 2020, and was honored with the Phoenix Business Journal’s 2023 Outstanding Women in Business Award and “20 Names to Know in Valley” for Nonprofits. She is a three-time Ironman Finisher and recently fulfilled a long-time goal of running the Boston Marathon. Terra combines her education, intuition, and experience to observe and interpret individual and group behavior while giving immediate, tangible feedback that will challenge you to move mindfully and live optimally.





# Darryl Tonemah, Ph.D.

## “The Singing Psychologist”



Darryl Tonemah (Kiowa/Comanche/Tuscarora) has a Ph.D., in Counseling Psychology and Cultural Studies, a Master’s Degree in Community Counseling and three Bachelors of Science Degrees. He has served on numerous state and national boards addressing disparities in education and health care among the Native Population. Over the past 30 years, he has provided trauma training to various institutions in the U.S. and Canada and has participated in multiple international Trauma Super Conferences. As the owner of the Tonemah Consulting Group and First Nations Telehealth Solutions, he increases wellness and access to psychological and psychiatric care to Native communities via telemedicine. He is the President of The Native Legacy Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to empowerment programming and suicide prevention in Native Communities. He also established BCares, a 24/7 counseling service and is the host of the Podcast “The Singing Psychologist,” which discusses psychological issues and interviews inspiring guests. He has also recorded 10 award-winning cds, published research, published a book entitled “Spray Your Swamp Cooler”, and is working on his second book. He has appeared in numerous films and stage productions.







# Niamey Thomas

Choreographer, Educator and Storyteller

Niamey Thomas is a Choreographer, Educator and Storyteller. Graduate of Arizona State University with a BA in Communication, Minor in Dance and Certificate in Brazilian Studies. Graduate from Elevate International Antioch Discipleship and Arts program where she learned how to be a disciple implementing projects and initiatives to enrich the community through Art. A graduate from AmeriCorps Public Ally program where she continued to strengthen community efforts and engagement. She has curated “The Show”, Artists for Change VOL 1, 2, & 3, and #LYRillestsessions. Niamey has danced professionally for fifteen years; she was a member of the WNBA Phoenix Mercury Hip-Hop Squad and many more. She has performed and taught around the valley, Chicago, Atlanta, and Puerto Rico. Currently Niamey is an Adjunct Faculty at Grand Canyon University, and Hip Hop Crew Director.





# Workshop Presenters

- Briana Clark
- Mark Garcia
- Evangelina Siler
- Jenna Christie-Tabron
- Alejandra Ruiz
- Alyssa Rodriguez
- Dr. Annette Bouwer and Phinley (Therapy Dog)
- Kelli Stark
- Amy Jacober

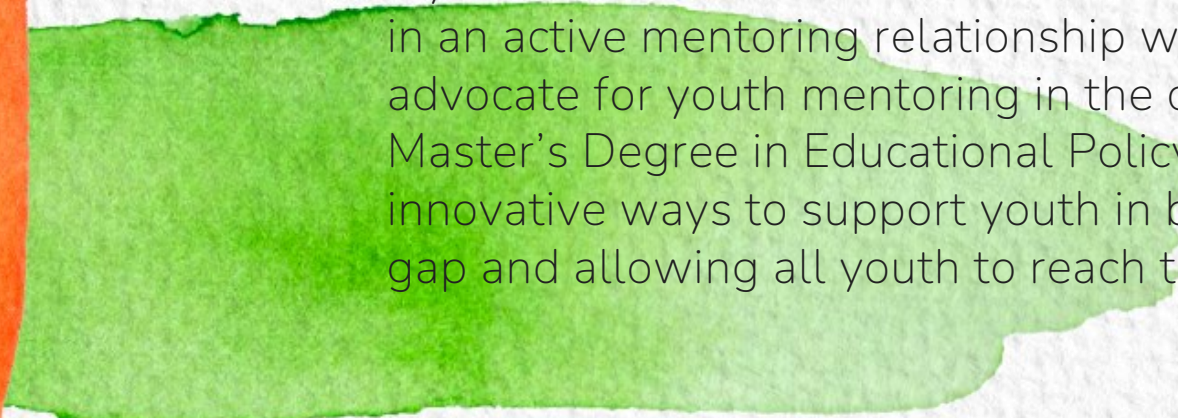




## Briana Clark



Briana Clark is the Vice President of Programs and Impact at New Pathways for Youth. She is a native Arizonan who began a career supporting youth through education as a classroom teacher. Briana worked for seven years in the classroom in grades ranging from K-8. She spent her time dedicated to working in low-income areas, serving students who did not have access to many essential services in schools. Briana shifted into the mentoring field after devoting a year as a volunteer mentor with New Pathways. She is still in an active mentoring relationship with her mentee and is an advocate for youth mentoring in the community. With a Master's Degree in Educational Policy, Briana looks to find innovative ways to support youth in bridging the achievement gap and allowing all youth to reach their full potential.





## Mark Garcia

Mark Garcia is the charismatic Director of Training and Curriculum at New Pathways for Youth where he is responsible for facilitating life skill development workshops and mentor trainings. He also leads the New Pathways Facilitator Training Program, engaging participants in diving deeper into the curriculum while exploring their own personal development and building facilitation skills to co-lead workshops and kickoff launches. Mark holds a Master of Science in Training and Performance Improvement from Capella University and a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Arizona State University. His accomplishments include being a member of Valley Leadership Institute, Class 36, and the 2018 Hispanic Leadership Institute. He is a certified Integral Coach, and a self-proclaimed people person, passionate about youth development, coaching, and collaboration. When he isn't leading youth in creating new possibilities for their future at the New Pathways for Youth Center, Mark enjoys hiking, exercising, practicing yoga, watching movies, and traveling.





# Evangelina Siler

Evangelina Siler, a dedicated LGBTQ advocate with actively contributed over 15 years of experience to the community. She has initiated and led Transgender and Gender Nonconforming (TGNC) support groups for youth in various areas of Maricopa County, Arizona.



In 2018, Eva joined Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona (BBBSAZ) to champion the LGBTQ initiative, after working five years of with homeless LGBTQ youth.

Co-authoring "Through Gender Lens" with the youth she supported, Eva emphasizes empowerment and education. Recognized with the 2020 Human Rights Campaign Individual Equality award, she continues to make a significant impact on creating safe and inclusive spaces for the LGBTQ community.







## Jenna Christie-Tabron, MFT,MSW

Jenna is a mental health clinician who has dedicated her career to helping children and adolescents achieve their highest potential. With experience in environments that extend from the east coast of the United States all the way to The Bahamas, Jenna comes with a wealth of knowledge from working with youth in the school, medical, psychiatric, residential, and judicial systems. Additionally, since her relocation to Phoenix, she has begun working with refugees and asylum-seeking families on their quest to resettle in the United States. Jenna uses her vibrant spirit to help her clients achieve personal empowerment in all their endeavors.



# Alejandra Ruiz



Alejandra Ruiz serves as the Match Program Manager at New Pathways for Youth, where she passionately facilitates transformative experiences for young individuals. A native of Arizona, Alejandra brings a deep-rooted commitment to empowering the youth of her community. With a master's degree in public health and certification as an Integral Coach, she combines academic expertise with hands-on experience in community organizing and case management to ensure that youth and their families reach their full potential. Alejandra's journey in youth advocacy has evolved to a focus on coaching and empowering others to achieve their aspirations. As a mentor to Cecilia, an inspiring 18-year-old young lady, and advocate for youth, she believes in the power of authentic connections to drive positive change and transformation in our communities.



## Alyssa Rodriguez, Soul Essence LLC

Alyssa Rodriguez is the visionary founder of Soul Essence and a dedicated practitioner in the realms of holistic well-being. For the past three years, Alyssa has been weaving her expertise as a yoga instructor and sound bath experience provider to create transformative journeys for individuals seeking balance and serenity. Alyssa's journey into the world of holistic healing began through the practice of yoga and immersive sound experiences. Fueled by a passion for holistic methods, she discovered the profound impact that yoga, sound baths, self-reflection, and embracing one's truth can have on overall health and well-being. With a heart-driven commitment to helping others find their own inner peace, Alyssa established Soul Essence. Her seminars and sound healing sessions are not just a blend of ancient practices, but a harmonious symphony that guides participants towards profound self-discovery and healing. Alyssa believes in the transformative power of authenticity and self-honesty, encouraging others to embark on their unique journeys towards holistic wellness.



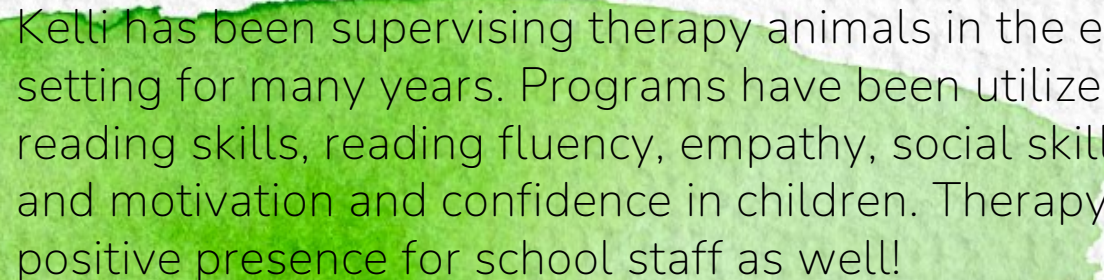




# Kelli Stark, EdS NCSP-School Psychologist

Kelli Stark has been a certified school psychologist since 2017, and the majority of her experience has been in the preschool-6th grade range. With passions of early intervention, behavior management, pet therapy, and helping families navigate their child's education, utilizing therapy dogs to promote reading has combined them all!

Kelli received her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Arizona State University and continued to a graduate program at University of Arizona where she obtained her Educational Specialist (EdS.) degree in school psychology. She is a certified school psychologist in the state of Arizona and a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NSCP).



Kelli has been supervising therapy animals in the elementary school setting for many years. Programs have been utilized to address basic reading skills, reading fluency, empathy, social skills, emotional regulation, and motivation and confidence in children. Therapy animals have been a positive presence for school staff as well!

In her free time, Kelli enjoys hiking, playing and coaching volleyball, live music, paddleboarding, snowboarding, and anything outdoors with her dog Juno.





# Pet Therapy Team

## Dr. Annette Bouwer and Phinley



During her veterinary career, Dr. Annette Bouwer found it rewarding to witness the positive impact pets have on people's lives. After beginning her therapy dog work in 2013, she began working with Gabriel's Angels in September 2021. Inspired by the work, she joined their Board in 2022 to amplify her ability to make a difference in the lives of at-risk youth. Annette and her dog Phinley, mentor children through our ABC Reading Program. Annette grew up in Tempe, AZ, attended ASU for her Pre-Veterinary degree, and obtained her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Oregon State College of Veterinary Medicine. Her 37-year career spans 22 years of private practice, 9 years of pharmaceutical technical support, and 6 years of serving as Director of Clinical Rotations and Clinical Faculty at Midwestern University College of Veterinary Medicine. She is a past President of the Arizona Veterinary Medical Association. Annette and her husband, Dr. Jim Flegenheimer, are the parents of two adult children and reside in Chandler with their two Golden Retrievers, Phinley and Dutch.





# Phinley-Therapy Dog Extraordinaire



Phinley has been helping children build confidence and joy around reading since 2021. Phinley volunteers with Gabriel's Angels in the ABC Program in collaboration with her assistant, Dr. Annette Bouwer. Phinley enjoys being known as the beloved Golden Retriever who will fall asleep with her head in your lap while you read. Phinley obtained her registration as a Therapy Dog from Alliance of Therapy Dogs in 2020 at about one year old.

Phinley shakes with her left paw and her favorite skill is sitting for treats. In her spare time when not working as a Therapy Dog Phinley enjoys eating scrambled eggs, playing with her younger Golden Retriever brother Dutch, and her favorite sport is beach running and fetching.



# Amy Jacober, PhD. MSW, Mdiv, MACSS



Amy Jacober has been a youth worker for over two decades. She has served in a variety of roles as a professor, social worker, advocate, and weekly volunteer in a variety of settings. She has had a particular focus in working with teens with disabilities and families in crisis. When not working with teens out in the world, she is busy at home with her husband, three children and overactive dog.



# Panel Participants

## Panel Moderator:

- TJ Geist (Free Arts' Volunteer Manager)

## Gabriel's Angels

- Dr. Annette Bouwer and Phinley (Pet Therapy Team)

## New Pathways for Youth

- Dr. Karen Johnson

## Free Arts

- Carlos Urtubey (Professional Teaching Artist)
- Ellis (Alumni)
- Crea (Young Adult Empowerment Program Participant)
- Treasure Calmwolf Howie-Carlson

## Big Brothers Big Sisters

- John Campbell (Big Brother Mentor)
- John De Roon (Alumni)







## TJ Geist

TJ has been performing since she was 10. She started as a singer and moved into acting in high school. She holds an MFA in Acting from the Aolo Conservatory. She has been writing, directing, and teaching theatre with vulnerable individuals for almost 25 years, because she believes that “theatreheals” both children and adults.

TJ is the current Volunteer Manager at Free Arts.

Panel Moderator-Volunteer Manager  
Free Arts



# Dr. Annette Bouwer and Phinley

Phinley has been helping children build confidence and joy around reading since 2021. Phinley volunteers with Gabriel's Angels in the ABC Program in collaboration with her assistant, Dr. Annette Bouwer. Phinley enjoys being known as the beloved Golden Retriever who will fall asleep with her head in your lap while you read. Phinley obtained her registration as a Therapy Dog from Alliance of Therapy Dogs in 2020 at about one year old.

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Panel Participants: Dr. Annette Bouwer and Phinley  
Gabriel's Angels





# Carlos Urtubey

Carlos Urtubey was born in NYC. His parents were South American and he has lived in Bogotá, Colombia, and in several cities in the U.S. This has given him an opportunity to have lived and worked as a Music Therapist, as a Musician, and as a Music, Spanish and English teacher, and as Mentor to teachers. In 2017, Carlos accompanied the Musical "Annie" with guitar and harmonica for performance organized at a shelter for teens.

Carlos has been working with Free Arts since 2015 as a Music Teacher, as Camp Counselor, and music accompanist.

Carlos worked as a mentor to new teachers during the 2020-2024 school years, at the Academy of Math and Science (AMS), a charter school in Phoenix AZ.

Last October, Carlos joined in Free Arts' 30-year celebration as the entertainment music for the Anniversary Dinner.





## Ellis

Ellis is a Free Arts Alumni in the Young Adult Empowerment Program. Ellis began his connection to Free Arts through Theater Camp in 2016, when he was 14 years old. “As I’ve grown with Free Arts, I’ve had opportunities to participate in various programs and events as both a mentee and a Volunteer Mentor at Free Arts Camps, supporting children with similar backgrounds. Free Arts has helped me to find my passions and learn new skills.”





## Crea

Crea is new member of the Free Arts Young Adult Empowerment Program. Crea connected to Free Arts in October 2023 through a program called Keys to Success that also serves teens and young adults that have experienced hardships. “Joining Free Arts as a YAEP participant gives me access to more opportunities that connect me with other young adults, and additional supportive resources.”

Panel Participant-Young Adult Empowerment Program  
Free Arts





# Treasure Calmwolf Howie-Carlson



Shawntele Treasure Calmwolf Howie-Carlson is a Northern Arizona resident originally from Pennsylvania.

She's a child of The Creator, wife, daughter, SistahFriend, parent, Ti Ti, artist, drummer, Chef, Free Arts volunteer, entrepreneur, artistic/holistic behavior health tech, and Doula.

Other areas of her spirit journey include being a percussionist, philanthropist, Montessorian, Citizen of the World, published poet/rhapsodist, artistic/holistic recovery support specialist and inclusive faith minister/reverend in training.

Each 1 Teach 1 and No matter What is in her bloodline, she continues to learn and teach.

Panel Participant-Volunteer Mentor  
Free Arts





# John Campbell & James De Roon

At the age of six, James De Roon and I were matched on April 9, 2003. Our journey as Big and Little spanned 20 years and during that time James has encountered many changes in his life. Other than the normal challenges of growing up, James has had several life-altering events come his way. His father drowned in a swimming pool about two years after I met James, his mother died of breast cancer when he was eighteen years old, his only brother has been in and out of prison, and he graduated Grand Canyon University on December 15, 2017. Despite the challenges James has had to overcome, he is a happy, healthy, and productive member of our community. James is currently working for Amazon in their logistics department.

In January of this year, James let me know that he was going to be married in April and asked if I would officiate his wedding. Without hesitation, I told him that it would be my pleasure and an honor to do so. On April 14, 2003, James married Erika.

