

The NonProfit Times'

26TH ANNUAL

THE 2023 NPT POWER & INFLUENCE

TOP 50

JUST WHEN THEY THOUGHT IT WAS SAFE TO BREATHE, EXECUTIVES HAD TO ADJUST -- AGAIN

BY PAUL CLOLERY

The pandemic was mostly done during late 2022 and early 2023. Supply chains were getting back to normal. Staff members were starting to go back to the office at least a couple of days a week.

It was about that time that the pandemic's trap door opened. Some executives might have thought the mailroom staff hadn't come back given the lack of checks in the mail. Fewer people were getting sick, but for some reason they could no longer find their checkbooks and credit cards to donate.

The war in Ukraine and hunger due to drought had executives at international relief organizations wondering how to do even the bare minimum but, somehow, they did better than that. Social justice remains a priority because for some reason Americans can't find common ground on everything from basic rights to agreeing that we can disagree and still work together.

The past 12 months challenged the nonprofit sector's most innovative minds. It has also been a year of rapid turnover in the sector C-suites.

Just as the sector has been influenced by events, so has this 26th edition of *The NonProfit Times' Power & Influence Top 50*. Roughly one-third (36%) of those honored have not previously

been inducted into the club. Women outnumber men on the list for the second time, 30 to 20. It also is arguably the most diverse list of honorees.

The honorees have distinguished themselves as initiators, innovators and leaders who can redirect and rebuild vital nonprofits and their operations. An important criterion of the list is that the honoree must be a working day-in, day-out executive.

The 2023 honorees were selected from a group of roughly 300 nominated top executives. A committee of *The NPT* editorial staff, contributors and a few leaders plugged into executive movement were involved in the selection process. This is not a lifetime achievement award. The executives must have had an impact during the previous 12 months.

The fine china will be rolled out for honorees and their guests as they are feted in Washington, D.C., next month during the annual *NPT Power & Influence Top 50 Gala* at The National Press Club. The event is sponsored by Data Axle, DCM Executive Search, Grant Thornton, JMT Consulting, Mitch-Stuart, and Moore.

One of the honorees will receive the *NPT Influencer of the Year* award. Turn the page and discover why these leaders are exceptional.

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THE 2023 NPT POWER & INFLUENCE TOP 50

Angelique Albert

Chief Executive Officer
Native Forward Scholars Fund
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Members of 500 tribes in 50 states rely on Albert to advocate for them and it's not just education, although the majority of scholarships go to non-traditional students 35 and older. Her input is sought by nonprofits such as the Obama Foundation's MBK Alliance Advisory Council, the National American Indian Business Leaders Organization, the Beaumont Foundation of America, and the Case Foundation.



Susan Taylor Batten

President & CEO
ABFE
New York, New York

If it is true (it is) that ABFE is an incubator of Black-led infrastructure for social change then Batten is the alchemist. She's proven philanthropy-supporting organizations can lead advancement of diversity, equity and inclusion within the sector and wants them to act more like foundations in moving money and resources. Advising and action are at her core.



Fred Blackwell

Chief Executive Officer
The San Francisco Foundation
San Francisco, California

Leaders at foundations with assets exceeding \$1 billion often lose touch with their communities. That's not Blackwell. In his words, there is a level of intimacy in being at the street level. That's how \$238.2 million got spent. He's a national player with board seats at Independent Sector, the Northern California Grantmakers, the Bridgespan Group, and the San Francisco Federal Reserve's community advisory council.



Nancy Brown

President & CEO
American Heart Association
Dallas, Texas

The name has "heart" in it, but Brown is a warrior for equitable health, connecting science, technology, and overall public health. Every impact can't be included in a small space. Start with the AHA Center for Accelerated Drug Discovery, her \$85 million research and innovation enterprise One Brave Idea, and the roughly dozen board and World Economic Forum leadership roles.



Phil Buchanan

President
Center for Effective Philanthropy
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Buchanan is the foundation world's conscience, the type of prodding that makes you roll around and remain sleepless because his portrayal of the current philanthropic environment is frightening and on target. While others thought about the impact of big gifts on nonprofits, he examined impact on the organization's leaders. Philanthropy is about people, after all.



Don Chen

President
Surdna Foundation
New York, New York

Chen works to show that a trust-based approach to philanthropy and a focus on impact and results aren't in conflict but rather the opposite -- they go hand in hand. He believes those involved in community economic development need to step up and show how to create a more just, sustainable, and prosperous future. His words: Community economic development is an essential U.S. institution.



Jim Clark

President & CEO
Boys & Girls Clubs of America
Atlanta, Georgia

With 4,300 U.S. locations and affiliated youth centers on U.S. military installations worldwide, even what Clark has for lunch has impact. He launched a new strategic direction, the Great Futures Impact Plan, focusing on academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. To do this, he spearheaded a major restructuring of the national organization.



Cecilia A. Conrad, Ph.D.

Chief Executive Officer
Lever For Change
Chicago, Illinois

Conrad, a distinguished academic, was the prime mover behind the MacArthur Foundation's 100&Change competition that periodically awards a single \$100 million grant. Does that sound familiar? There is a ring to it because she influences some of MacKenzie Scott's giving and billions more from other seriously deep-pocketed social impact entrepreneurs.



Asha Curran

Co-Founder & CEO
GivingTuesday
New York, New York

If you ask Curran, GivingTuesday isn't about the money (although it is). Philanthropy is about generosity on all levels. There are official GivingTuesday "movements" in 80 countries, which is not bad for something started on a shoestring at the 92Y in New York City. GivingTuesday Data Commons accumulates information from 50 global data labs focused on giving behavior.



Tim Delaney

President & CEO
National Council Of Nonprofits
Washington, D.C.

Delaney and his team have become the leaders in actionable information and strategy when it comes to regulation and legislation at the federal and state levels. His team is also the fastest in the industry to getting data and a plan out in the field. He also helped construct the language for nonprofit eligibility for the Paycheck Protection Program.



Neal Denton

Executive Vice President
YMCA of the USA
Chicago, Illinois

Denton won't be happy having his superpowers revealed, but it takes cash to run a nonprofit and he's been able to get federal cash for YMCAs around the nation. The federal budgets for FY 2022, 2023 and 2024 include dozens of well-deserved YMCA earmarks worth transformative millions impacting local organizations. Many people there are working on it, but Denton is responsible for it all.



Abigail Dillen

President
Earthjustice
San Francisco, California

Dillen is Planet Earth's attorney. She leads the organization's litigation docket and legal advocacy work on climate change and is a premier advocate of using forensic analysis to meet a legal standard to prove the case. She teams with and coordinates with other environmental nonprofits to use every law on the books to battle climate change and polluters.



Cheryl Dorsey

President
Echoing Green
New York, New York

Dorsey launched a nonprofit, but her thinking transcends the tax-exempt world on issues such as structural inequities inside and outside the sector. She's known for saying "we can't fix what we can't measure" and brings an entrepreneur's mindset to data development and use. Her Racial Equity Philanthropic Fund blew past its \$50 million goal and it's now sits in excess of \$75 million.



Sarah Kate Ellis

President & CEO
GLAAD
New York, New York

Ellis has evolved GLAAD into a powerhouse for advocacy and change benefiting the LGBTQ+ community. She was key to organizing the first Presidential Candidate Forum on LGBTQ+ issues during the 2020 election, and has brought the issue to the World Economic Forum. She spearheaded a digital event highlighting LGBTQ+ response to COVID-19. Consumer brands court her thought leadership.



THE 2023 NPT POWER & INFLUENCE TOP 50

Brian Flahaven

Vice President, Strategic Partnerships
Council For Advancement And Support of Education
Washington, D.C.

Flahaven chairs the charitable giving coalition which is the main driver of expanding the charitable deduction to nonitemizers. The coalition's persistent advocacy is breaking down the opposition. The timing is perfect as reauthorization efforts for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act are warming up. Flahaven's stalwart leadership has made this happen.



Claire Babineaux-Fontenot

Chief Executive Officer
Feeding America
Chicago, Illinois

Babineaux-Fontenot has personal knowledge of hunger and its physical and emotional impacts. It's the foundation of her "not on my watch" attitude. She started the Food Security Equity Impact Fund with \$20 million from MacKenzie Scott to drive investments to communities known to be unduly impacted by food insecurity. You can't ignore one number -- 6.6 billion meals facilitated.



Jesús Gerena

Chief Executive Officer
UpTogether
Oakland, California

Gerena is a visionary leader who knows that good things happen when you give people resources and voice. He empowers people in historically undervalued communities. His words: "We do not need to help people more; we need to hinder them less. Poverty is not caused by personal failures. It's rooted in system choices."



Daniel H. Gillison, Jr.

Chief Executive Officer
National Alliance on Mental Illness
Arlington, Virginia

Mental illness is finally getting the attention it deserves in the national discussion. Gillison launched a SMS/text message support option for NAMI HelpLine that is connecting with healthcare and community organizations. He's helping to reimagine game night via a free virtual card game designed by young people, for young people to prompt conversations about life, relationships, and mental health.



Patricia E. Harris

Chief Executive Officer
Bloomberg Philanthropies
New York, New York

Harris believes good data is the foundation of strategies that can then be shared. That's the city manager in her. Data is what informs her and the team as they make philanthropic investments worldwide, even if it sometimes is tilting at windmills, like pushing to get 1,000 cities to pledge net zero emissions by 2030. Every gift from the \$13 billion endowment has transformational impact in the 700 cities and 150 countries where it was invested.



Crystal Hayling

Executive Director
Libra Foundation
San Francisco, California

Hayling doesn't reminisce about the good old days of American life because to this day many are not in the room let alone at the table. She is changing philanthropic balance and thinking regarding the "illusion of the importance of self-sufficiency." From the foundation's grant-making to the \$45 million Democracy Frontlines, she is pushing philanthropy past "shared goals" that keep the status quo.



Eileen R. Heisman

President & CEO
National Philanthropic Trust
Jenkintown, Pennsylvania

You're in Costco and buy a Kirkland product. It was made by a well-known national brand and relabeled. Heisman is democratizing donor-advised funds in the same way via private label branding. Unlike the commercial DAFs, Heisman's first thought is of the sector, not the float on deposits, because she is a fundraiser at heart and sought after because she can straddle both worlds.



Melanie L. Herman

Executive Director
Nonprofit Risk Management Center
Leesburg, Virginia

Herman remains the go-to nonprofit executive when it comes to risk management within the tax-exempt space. She has authored more than a dozen books and resource guides on various risk management topics. While much of her consulting work is confidential, she has been the unflappable architect for some of the sector's most important direction and implementation of risk mitigation.



Kenneth Hodder

National Commissioner
Salvation Army
Alexandria, Virginia

The Salvation Army is a lot more than buckets and bells for Hodder. The leadership of this Harvard-trained lawyer is steering many of the sector's commissions and boards. His "The Way Out" initiative is pushing to double the Salvation Army's homelessness response during a five-year period. Its 7,000 centers make him leader of the nation's largest social service operation.



Brian Hooks

Chairman and CEO
Stand Together & Charles Koch Foundation
Washington, D.C.

Nonprofit leaders did a double take when libertarian Hooks partnered with progressive Darren Walker at the Ford Foundation to prod the sector to find collaborative paths. Stand Together's community works with more than 700 business leaders and philanthropists. It has funded 1,000 professors at more than 300 universities working to improve public policy and develop thought leaders.



Stephanie J. Hull

President & CEO
Girls Inc.
New York, New York

Long an advocate for inclusivity, Hull is expanding the mission from serving under-served girls to empowering all girls and creating a future leaders pipeline. She is in the room with policymakers and key figures in the Biden Administration. She is correct when she says support needs to include social, mental, and emotional well-being and economics. She's proved she can raise the money to do it.



Ben Jealous

President
Sierra Club
Washington, D.C.

On the face of it, the community organizer Jealous running The Sierra Club seems incongruous until you know the street-smart activist lives in a designated bird sanctuary. He's led several of the nation's impactful civil rights groups, the NAACP for one, and is sought-after for boards for his thoughts, political activism, and deploying technology to make organizing more effective.



Jo Ann Jenkins

Chief Executive Officer
AARP
Washington, D.C.

Jenkins must not sleep. She has changed Americans' view of age, prepared people older than 50 for the next productive phase of life and scares the "you know what" out of just about every elected official with a brain with her more than 60,000 volunteers. Her book is "Disrupt Aging," but she disrupts, positively, everything she touches.



Rebecca Masisak

Chief Executive Officer
TechSoup
San Francisco, California

Masisak is transforming the leading tech e-commerce social enterprise product donation platform into worldwide data-as-a resource for civil society access. She has established partners in 250 countries. Masisak broke the mold when TechSoup got the Securities and Exchange Commission to approve a direct public offering for a nonprofit that raised \$11.5 million.



THE 2023 NPT POWER & INFLUENCE TOP 50

Suzanne McCormick

President & CEO
YMCA of the USA
Chicago, Illinois

McCormick's had a very active couple of years, bringing more youth voices into advocacy and amping the volume of those voices for participation in board decisions and leadership, a model for other nonprofits, youth-oriented or not. Her focus on mental health and her partnerships with others (the White House, Camp Counselors USA, Habitat for Humanity) builds bridges.



Shannon McCracken, CAE

Chief Executive Officer
The Nonprofit Alliance
Washington, D.C.

It is astonishing how much and how quickly one person can impact multiple silos of the nonprofit sector. McCracken has expanded an association for direct response fundraising to almost every aspect of running a nonprofit, especially regulation and professional education. She's made room under the tent to strengthen all associations and charities. Her impact is felt nationwide.



Gail McGovern

President & CEO
American Red Cross
Washington, D.C.

If the sector was a rock band McGovern would be the quiet Beatle whose driving beat moved everything forward. By quiet, there's no longer controversy surrounding one of the nation's most important nonprofits. Her mantra of try new things and if it doesn't work, try something else has been the foundation to resolving issues that long plagued ARC. She is an inclusive problem solver.



Alison Moore

Chief Executive Officer
Comic Relief US
New York, New York

Moore is so much more than a celebrity connector. She is a visionary on workforce issues who juggles entertainment, media and international management. The Kids Relief online gaming initiative, which supports young people's ability to drive change, is simply genius with many nonprofit managers just now figuring out the importance of gaming.



Michelle Nunn

President & CEO
CARE USA
Atlanta, Georgia

Under Nunn's leadership, CARE directly reached 174 million people in 111 countries. She was among the first executives to embrace digital currencies and turned the donations into crypto-based vouchers for women and groups in Africa and Latin America. She's proving cryptocurrencies are a viable and effective option to deliver aid with CARE now accepting 70 digital currencies.



Una Osili, Ph.D.

Associate Dean for Research and International Programs
Lilly Family School of Philanthropy
Indianapolis, Indiana

Just about everyone's favorite philanthropy economist, Osili heads up some of the most important sector-wide research. Her explanations are designed to be inclusive and accessible by all who are interested. She founded Generosity for Life, a digital platform that provides new data tools for philanthropy and social impact.



Eboo Patel

Founder & President
Interfaith America
Chicago, Illinois

Patel was tying diversity to service long before it became a national mantra. He has worked with every entity imaginable to make faith a bridge of cooperation rather than a barrier of division. Once a self-described "hair-on-fire activist," he is pulling together faith-based and youth nonprofits to evolve to understanding others, as he personally did.



Mary A. Pittman, DrPH

President & CEO
Public Health Institute
Oakland, California

Pittman is showcasing how diverse stakeholders can work together and use data for healthier communities. Pittman built a workforce during COVID which would have been impossible had she not been an influencing voice in public health. Her ideas are heard throughout a network of 2,400 grassroots and community-based organizations in 29 states.



Susanna Pollack

President
Games For Change
New York, New York

Gaming is now integral to influencing, advocacy and fundraising. There is no doubt that Pollack isn't "camping" and doesn't have a "cool down" period. GFC has become an important influencer in the sector. It is a "sandbox" in its own right and Pollack is "pwned" of this realm. (Sorry, you'll have to look them all up.)



Jonathan Reckford

Chief Executive Officer
Habitat For Humanity International
Atlanta, Georgia

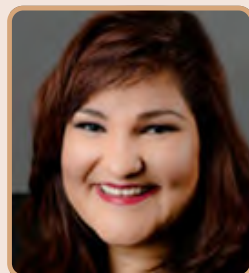
Reckford is more than the trailblazer at HFHI. He's led the field to understand the economic realities of community, bringing together people from every silo. Reckford lives his words that service is the antidote to polarization, and that you don't have to agree with people to work or engage with them. He's chair of Leadership 18 and an active participant at global economic forums.



Marietta Rodriguez

President & CEO
NeighborWorks America
Washington, D.C.

Rodriguez is a walking ad for leveraging public-private partnerships, leading a network of 245 organizations and nonprofit partners helping low-income families with home ownership, foreclosure prevention and community building. Her knowledge of the program is firsthand. The NeighborWorks Center for Foreclosure Solutions is a model that can be used by others for their challenges.



Douglas Rutzen

President & CEO
International Center for Not-for-Profit Law
Washington, D.C.

There is no international civil society crisis that Rutzen hasn't had a hand in trying to quell or at least reducing the heat. He is often called on to work behind the scenes in the response to many attacks on democracy and civil society, whether the beckoning is from the White House or from leaders abroad. He's a vital counselor to other nonprofit leaders working in desperate parts of the world.



MacKenzie Scott

Philanthropist & Author
Seattle, Washington

It's \$15 billion and counting — all unrestricted, trust-based giving. Sector leaders have encouraged trust-based giving with limited results. She flipped on the stadium lights. The process was more secret than nuclear codes but now has evolved into an open call to submit for transformational donations. The best part is plenty of the giving is to infrastructure organizations that support the overall sector.



Barron Segar

President & CEO
World Food Program USA
Washington, D.C.

Check your wallet after you meet with Segar. It will be empty. He is one of the most effective fundraisers in his effort to prevent a couple million people from starving to death. The organization has had explosive growth on his watch and his depth of knowledge on the international politics of hunger will save lives and should spur more people into action.



THE 2023 NPT POWER & INFLUENCE TOP 50

Rusty Stahl

Founder, President & CEO
Fund the People
Beacon, New York

Stahl spends his days convincing funders that the sector needs to be talent-investing. It is about the "human health" of an organization. He is not coming to this lately. It has been his focus for years. Academic institutions are finally catching up to what he has been preaching. His podcast on the inner working of organizations is an illuminating experience.



Victoria Vrana

Chief Executive Officer
GlobalGiving
Washington, D.C.

Nonprofit infrastructure and finance have long been her stock-in-trade. She boosted the body of work for "everyday giving" and along with it the capacity of organizations that share that mission. She understands that money is nice, but it means little if you don't have systems in place. Vrana was an early booster of the unsexy sector infrastructure pushing innovation and data use.



Mark Suzman

Chief Executive Officer
The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Seattle, Washington

Suzman was greeted with a pandemic when taking over the top job and pivoted the organization to expand its already strong world health policies to focus on COVID-19. Billions of dollars were deployed for vaccine development and distribution to less resourced areas of the world. More importantly, he has instilled calm at a foundation known to be less than disciplined.



Darren Walker

President
Ford Foundation
New York, New York

Whether it's nodding your head in approval or side to side in disbelief, there is no arguing that Walker is unconventional in what the foundation chooses to fund. His varied professional background in law, finance and philanthropy, coupled with having grown up in poverty, push the foundation's agenda to make \$1 billion bets on human capacity and the potential of people.



Henry Timms

President & CEO
Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts
New York, New York

Timms received the Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) from King Charles III, citing his service to the arts and philanthropy. GivingTuesday was his idea while leading 92Y. He's an award-winning author on philanthropy and is now turning the stodgy Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts into a street party, connecting and influencing New York City's cultural community.



Angela Williams

President & CEO
United Way Worldwide
Alexandria, Virginia

This could get interesting in a hurry. Williams has been issuing statements on the horrific gun violence and just might have the community-by-community muscle to make a difference. She is evolving herself an international presence while keeping a focus on local issues. Williams understands that local impact emits energy waves of renovation.



Fay Twersky

President & Director
The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation
Atlanta, Georgia

Twersky was already the person behind many shifts in philanthropy through her push for funders and nonprofits to hear from those they seek to help. Now she is possibly the biggest philanthropic force in Georgia, also serving on the leadership team of the Blank portfolio of socially-minded enterprises, including the Atlanta Falcons, Atlanta United, PGA TOUR Superstore, and Mercedes-Benz Stadium.



Tycely Williams

Chief Development Officer
Bipartisan Policy Center
Washington, D.C.

Williams isn't just a world class fundraiser. She is the embodiment of nonprofit leadership for the next decade. Williams is a sought-after thought leader on fundraising, DEI, the state of the sector, interpreting research and organizing to develop consensus. She lends her strategic thinking to numerous committees and boards throughout the sector.



PICTURES FROM 2022 TOP 50 GALA

