

Southwest Missouri Grant Writers

Membership Profiles

2021

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www.smgwriters.org



Melissa Adler, Drury University

Melissa is a graduate of the University of Missouri and has worked in nonprofit public relations, marketing and development for more than 20 years. Melissa has six years' experience in grant writing.

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Accepts Freelance Work: No

Brandi Bailey, Women In Need of the Ozarks / Snyder Construction Group

Brandi is new to grant writing as of 2021 and joined SMGW to learn more about writing grants and connect with those who have experience. Brandi is a board member for Women In Need of the Ozarks, and will be writing grants for this organization. She also serves on the Junior Board for Lost & Found Grief Center. In her professional career, she does strategic development and marketing for Snyder Construction and previously spent fifteen years as a commercial interior designer.

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Accepts Freelance Work: Yes



Jessica Blake, The Arc of the Ozarks

Jessica Blake is a seasoned nonprofit professional who excels in relationship management, internal/external communications, public relations, and development. She started her career in the nonprofit sector working for the American Cancer Society shortly after graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in English from Missouri State University. Blake currently serves as the Director of Development at The Arc of the Ozarks. In this role, she focuses on increasing awareness and visibility of The Arc through public engagement, media relations, marketing/communications, and development activities. Blake is a recent Leadership Springfield, Class 40 graduate and serves as the president of the Southwest Missouri Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. Blake has been married to her husband Micah for 18 years and together have two daughters, Emrie and Maven. In their free time, they enjoy being in the great outdoors taking advantage of everything the Ozarks has to offer!

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Accepts Freelance Work: No

Tricia Chapman, Nixa Public Schools

Tricia is new in the world of grant writing. As sponsorship coordinator for Nixa Public Schools, Tricia takes care of advertising and events within the district, as well as learning grant writing. She has 25 years of experience in sales and management. She has been a member of the Ozark Rotary Club since 2015, and has previously served as secretary and president. Tricia is currently a Nixa Chamber of Commerce Ambassador and Nixa Care to Learn Advisory Board member.

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Accepts Freelance Work: No



Julia Cottrell, Missouri State University

Julia has worked in higher education for five years, gaining experience in grant writing, assessment, and community engagement. As a seasoned Assessment and Student Learning Outcomes Consultant, she is passionate about advancing educational quality, opportunities, and service to the community. In addition to her role in Assessment at Missouri State University, she is also involved in the Center for Writing in College, Career, and Community, Public Affairs, and the Center for Community Engagement. She has written six U.S. Department of Education Grants to provide STEM education opportunities to rural k-12 students in Southwest Missouri, with her latest funded in the amount of \$4 million, and two AmeriCorps grants aimed at expanding offerings and opportunities with Missouri State University's Bear Pantry. Outside of the office, Julia enjoys her committee work and volunteering with the Springfield Sister Cities Association and Friends of the Garden, traveling, and reading.



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Accepts Freelance Work: No

Area of Expertise: Federal (U.S. Department of Education), Service (AmeriCorps)

Janna Elliston

Janna holds a Bachelor of Science in Communications from Evangel University, Communications and a Master of Arts in Nonprofit and Civic Leadership from Drury University.

Janna has served as a facilitator of the United Way of the Ozarks' "Making Sense of Money" program to teach budgeting principles to community members. She has also served on the advisory board for Prosper Springfield and is currently a member of Republic Business and Community Women.

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Accepts Freelance Work: Yes

Area of Expertise: Poverty, Financial Literacy, Mental Health

**Kathy Hoeck, KLH Grant Services, LLC**

Kathy launched KLH Grant Services, LLC in 2015 and serves as a consultant with National Christian Foundation assisting in areas of faith-based, nonprofit foundation research and grant writing. Kathy's first experience in grant writing began in 2009 while working with a faith-based health care clinic where her passion for research and writing assisted the clinic in the development of a successful grant-seeking plan. Along with foundation research and proposal writing, Kathy works with clients defining their mission and finalizing their Case Statement, leveraging her clients for a successful grants program. Kathy is the past secretary and a current member of the Southwest Missouri Grant Writers Association and a member of the American Grant Writers Association. KLH's focus is on Christian nonprofit ministries where they assist ministries in the development of award-winning proposals that address the educational, medical, spiritual, and financial disparities plaguing local communities and communities around the world.

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Accepts Freelance Work: Yes

Area of Expertise: Faith-Based Organizations

Samantha Jones, Evangel University

Samantha's personal mission is to help others find their voice and support individuals in their journey towards wholeness. She is passionate about supporting people and organizations who strive to make a difference in their communities. In June of 2018, she was hired as a grant writer at Evangel University. Prior to this role, Samantha served Evangel as the Financial Aid Database Administrator. Other experience includes working in technology, sales, music performance, music ministry, and writing. Throughout her life, she has been blessed to participate in missions work in twenty-one countries. Beginning in 2012, she served as the motivational speaker for Women2Women. This networking group focused on building up female business owners in Springfield. Samantha holds a Bachelor of Music degree and is pursuing a Master of Arts in Theological Studies.

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Accepts Freelance Work: Yes

Area of Expertise: Higher Education, Technology, Capital, Performing Arts





Leslie Manor, CoxHealth Foundation

Leslie has 5 years of experience in grant writing, as well as marketing and development for nonprofits. She joined CoxHealth Foundation as a Grants Specialist in January 2019, and was previously the Director of Marketing and Development for SCIL, an independent living center. Prior to her nonprofit work, Leslie's past experience included home health marketing, pharmaceutical sales, and social work for children's services and people with disabilities. She earned a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Psychology with a Minor in Criminal Justice from Missouri State University, and has been a resident of Springfield since 1995.

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Accepts Freelance Work: Yes

Area of Expertise: Social Services, Disability Services, and Health and Human Services

Alexis "Lexi" Mason, Southwest Missouri Council of Governments / Missouri State University

Lexi holds a Bachelor of Science in Spanish and Geography, and has served in grant writing and administration for the past 3 years for the City of Springfield, Burrell Behavioral Health, and Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG)/Missouri State University (MSU). She specializes in state and federal grants such as DOL, HUD, DNR, USDA, FEMA, CDBG, LWCF, etc. She currently writes and manages grants in SMCOG's 10 county region of southwest Missouri.

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Accepts Freelance Work: Yes

Area of Expertise: State and federal community development grants; can translate materials as needed



Stephanie Matthews, Simmons Bank

Stephanie is Vice President Business Development Officer at Simmons Bank in Springfield. She is responsible for business development and philanthropic efforts in the Southwest MO region. Stephanie previously worked as Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at Missouri State University, where she directed strategic initiatives related to obtaining corporate and private foundation philanthropic support. She holds a BA in Psychology from Southwest Baptist University (2001), and a MS in Administrative Studies with Applied Communication from Missouri State University (2008). She is also certified in Conflict and Dispute Resolution, Missouri State University (2008), and volunteers as a mediator with the Center for Dispute Resolution. She is President of the Southwest Missouri Grant Writers Association, Secretary of the Springfield Dream Center Advisory Board, Ambassador for the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Grant Professionals Association (GPA).

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Accepts Freelance Work: No

Area of Expertise: Private Foundation and Corporate Funding

Jason Ray, Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG)



SMCOG employs professional staff to provide technical assistance, grant writing, and administration services

to units of local governments and select nonprofits within a 10-county region in SW Missouri. SMCOG is the federally-designated Economic Development District for the region and works closely with several state and federal agencies to direct public investments within the District. If you represent a unit of local government or are working on a project in the following categories, please feel free to contact our office: transportation (recreational trails, sidewalks, etc.), economic development, hazard/disaster mitigation, public safety/homeland security, community development (senior centers, storm shelters, etc.), public infrastructure (water/wastewater systems), disaster recovery.

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Accepts Freelance Work: No



Aurora Rayos, AmeriCorps VISTA

Aurora graduated in December 2020 with a Bachelor of Arts in Professional and Technical Writing from Missouri Southern State University, and a BA in Biblical & Interdisciplinary Studies from Ozark Christian College. While attending MSSU, she was nominated and received their annual Excellence in Writing Award.

She served for 6 months with Rapha International as their Grant Writing/Development Intern, where she helped them acquire over \$30,000 in funding. Aurora started her service with AmeriCorps in Carterville, MO in March 2021, where she serves as the Capacity Building VISTA for the WeHope Community Initiative serving the North Joplin area.

She volunteers with a local youth group, and in the past volunteered at Watered Gardens, a homeless mission. She is passionate about youth empowerment, poverty and addiction services.

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Accepts Freelance Work: Yes

Area of Expertise: Local Foundations, State Grants, Corporate Grants, and International Grants (UNICEF, Embassy grants, etc.). Human Trafficking, Poverty, Mental Health Services, and Child Services.

Kathleen Romero, OneSource Professional Writing, LLC

As a healthcare, education, and technical communication professional, Kathleen brings to nonprofit organizations a breadth and depth of education, skills, and experience to leverage funding success. These include but are not limited to collaboration with subject matter experts (SMEs) and stakeholders, project management, and expertise in the rhetoric of technical documentation and professional communication. She holds a Bachelor of Science in medical technology/clinical laboratory science from the University of Kansas Medical Center as well as ASCP certification; Missouri DESE certifications in elementary and early childhood education; and a Master of Arts in technical and professional communication from Minnesota State University. As a technical writer, Ms. Romero provides full-time technical and professional writing services to SMART Transportation Division, composing, editing, and proof-reading a variety of technical documentation and professional communications regarding resolution of labor disputes.



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Accepts Freelance Work: Yes

Area of Expertise: Healthcare, Education, Technical and Professional Communication



Millie Schuchmann, Community Foundation of the Ozarks

Millie is an alumna of Drury University, holding a Bachelor of Arts in English & Writing and a Master of Arts in Communication. Millie has more than six years of experience as a fundraiser and grant writer, with demonstrated success securing grants from state and local grantors, improving donor communications, and database management. Millie enjoys researching grant funders and opportunities, and has extensive experience writing successful family foundation and regional grants, as well as state tax credit applications. Millie has previously served as the chapter president of the Ozarks Region Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, and is currently the Management Director Elect for the Junior League of Springfield, MO.

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Accepts Freelance Work: No

Area of Expertise: Child, Family, and Social Services, Foundation Grants

Donald Glynn Smillie

Donald is a retired CPA and retired from military service. He currently serves through his church and area nonprofits, and is new to grant writing.

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Accepts Freelance Work: No





Susan D. Turner, Missouri State University West Plains, Retired

Susan moved to Springfield recently after 5 years as a grant development specialist for Missouri State University-West Plains. Major awards received by that institution included \$2.5 million from the federal Department of Labor, another 5 year TRIO grant from the federal Department of Education, and the initial Adult Education and Literacy grant from a Missouri state agency. Before that she had worked for the Kansas City Kansas Community College, the Chicago Police Department, and the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences. After earning a B.A. from Knox College (sociology), Susan completed a M.S. from Tulane University and a Ph.D. from the University of Delaware. Now Susan is interested in learning more about the Springfield community and how her experience can be put to use for public and private sector entities.

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Accepts Freelance Work: Yes

Area of Expertise: Federal and State Grants: Higher Education, Job Training, and Local Government

Brandi VanAntwerp, CoxHealth Foundation

Brandi has 9 years of grant writing experience at CoxHealth Foundation as the Grant Administrator and Habitat for Humanity of Springfield, Missouri as the Development Director. She earned a Bachelor of Music from Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee in 2004 and returned home to Missouri in 2009. She is a member of P.E.O. International, Leadership Springfield Class 33, and 40 Under 40 Class of 2016.

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Accepts Freelance Work: Yes

Area of Expertise: Health and Human Services, Housing, and Tax Credits



Jhasmine F. Watson, Care to Learn

Jhasmine is the Deputy Director of Care to Learn, a Missouri based nonprofit that partners with school districts to meet the emergent health, hunger, and hygiene needs of students. Jhasmine has been with Care to Learn for 5 years and in that time has helped the organization grow operations and development systems/processes to support the growth of the mission. A graduate of Missouri State University with a business degree in Entertainment Management, Jhasmine is currently pursuing a master's degree in Arts Administration with an emphasis on Nonprofit Sustainability, Operations, and Development through the University of Kentucky online. She has helped lead grant writing efforts resulting in over \$500,000 of grant awards.

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Accepts Freelance Work: No

Area of Expertise: Poverty and Children's Services

Deb Wilson, O-STEAM

Deb is a retired teacher with over 40 years teaching, writing curriculum, and presenting on educational topics. She has written and evaluated many grants. She founded O-STEAM in 2014 to promote & propel the STEM/STEAM focus throughout the entire Ozarks region.

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Accepts Freelance Work: Yes

Area of Expertise: Education



Heather Zoromski, Darr Family Foundation

Heather is a lifelong resident of southwest Missouri and has 19 years of experience in nonprofit administration, grant-writing and grant-making. Before coming to the Darr Family Foundation, she served as Grants Administrator of Skaggs Foundation in Branson, Missouri and as Executive Director of Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals of CoxHealth in Springfield, Missouri. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Child and Family Development, a master’s degree in Public Health, both from Missouri State University, as well as a certification in grant writing from the American Grant Writer’s Association. She serves on the Board of Directors for Ozarks Teen Challenge, Jesus Was Homeless, Ozarks Wellness Network, Kyle Bruton Foundation, the Board of Education at Nixa Public Schools, and holds a Community Advisory Council position with Missouri Foundation for Health.

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Accepts Freelance Work: No

Area of Expertise: Health and Human Services