



Lizz Helmsen, MAT **Managing Director**

Lizz Helmsen, MAT, combines more than 20 years of fundraising and nonprofit management experience with a background in the arts, education, and community service. She is known as a creative and energetic professional with a proven ability to build relationships with, and create connections among, multiple constituencies.

Lizz provides expertise in the areas of campaign counsel, major gifts, development planning, annual giving, and strategic communications. She is also a *BoardSource* certified governance consultant, working with organizations to strengthen their governance practices, board development, and organizational culture.

Board Membership

Lizz currently serves on the Education Committee of the Association of Fundraising Professionals Colorado Chapter and is a mentor for the chapter, as well. Previously, she has been a member of the Advisory Board of the Bayer Center for Nonprofit Management at Robert Morris University in Pittsburgh, PA, the Board of Directors of the Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestras in Pittsburgh, PA, and the Board of Directors for the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh. She also serves as volunteer counsel for Camp Wapiyapi in Denver, CO.

She has volunteered for the Hotspurs Soccer Club, SCS United Soccer Club, and PA West Soccer Association, along with a variety of other clubs and organizations. She believes in rolling up her sleeves and participating at every level, from managing youth sports teams and distributing cyclist packets to guest lecturing, overseeing crisis communications, and leading strategic planning committees.

Client Experience

Most recently, Lizz has worked with clients such as *Barenboim-Said Foundation USA, New York, NY; Boys & Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Baltimore, Baltimore, MD; the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, Charlotte, NC; Gwen's Girls, Pittsburgh, PA; the Louisiana Music*

and Heritage Experience, New Orleans, LA; Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland, Baltimore, MD; the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Pittsburgh, PA; Pittsburgh Festival Opera, Pittsburgh, PA; Valley of the Tetons Library, Victor, ID; The Westmoreland Museum of American Art, Greensburg, PA; and Youth Haven of Southwest Florida, Naples, FL. Prior to joining Carter, Lizz was an independent consultant working with the Animal Rescue League & Wildlife Center of Western Pennsylvania, now known as Humane Animal Rescue of Pittsburgh. She directed the largest capital campaign in the organization's history to build a new, state-of-the-art animal resource center.

Lizz began her fundraising career at the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre before spending 10 years with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. During her tenure with the PSO, she led individual and corporate development programs; coordinated joint economic development activities between the PSO, the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, and the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance; and created comprehensive fundraising programs to support the PSO's multiple satellite series. She was also credited with developing several innovative donor development and stewardship initiatives, including the highly successful Musicians' Challenge and Patron Appreciation Month.

Personal

Lizz has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Drama Design from Carnegie Mellon University and a Master of Arts in Teaching, Secondary English, from the University of Pittsburgh. A Denver native, Lizz, her husband, Eric, recently moved back to the Mile High City. They have one son at the University of Colorado in Boulder, one son at American University in Washington, D.C., and one crazy dog.