



Heather Orr has dedicated more than 15 years to nonprofit development, bringing deep expertise in fundraising, donor engagement, and community partnerships. As the Development Officer for Philanthropy at WellPower— the state’s largest community mental health organization— she helps drive philanthropic support through authentic storytelling, strategic campaigns, and meaningful corporate and community relationships. Her approach to fundraising is rooted in community-centric values, prioritizing inclusivity, transparency, and shared impact over transactional giving. She thrives on building relationships that not only support organizational goals but also strengthen the well-being of the communities she serves.

Gerry Rasel has spent 25 years in the nonprofit sector, raising funds, building communities, and making sure her family fully appreciates the magic of philanthropy. As a long time fundraiser and former membership director, she brings warmth, wit, and a deep belief in the power of mission-driven work. When she’s not connecting people to causes they care about, you’ll likely find her hiking a trail, sipping tea, or lost in a good book.



Sarah Stewart is Manager of Corporate Partnerships at Children’s Hospital Colorado Foundation, where she collaborates with companies to design mission-aligned strategies that advance pediatric health. Her work includes philanthropic investments, employee engagement, and sponsorships connected to the Foundation’s signature fundraising events. She began her fundraising career at the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children’s Health, the fundraising arm for Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford and the Stanford School of Medicine’s child and maternal health programs. A grateful former patient of Packard Children’s, Sarah has experienced the transformative role of philanthropy in maternal health and carries that perspective into her work today. She holds Master’s and Bachelor’s degrees in Justice Studies from San Jose State University.

Amy Farnan – Moderator

Amy is a philanthropy leader with 25+ years of experience helping nonprofits grow through fundraising, grant writing, and donor engagement. She has secured millions in funding across private, state, and federal sources, while also leading successful events, campaigns, and corporate partnerships. Known for blending strategy with storytelling, Amy builds authentic relationships and delivers results that strengthen communities.

