People Serving People's
22ND ANNUAL GALA

Staying Sheltered

An event supporting our mission & vision.

ONLINE AUCTION
October 13–16

VIRTUAL PROGRAM
October 16 at 7 pm
Mission
We exist to see families thrive.

Vision
Healed families. Transformed communities.
**Boards of Directors**

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Laurel Lilligren  

Senior Program Director  
Christine Smith
Karla Hult is an Emmy, Edward R. Murrow and Walter Cronkite Award-winning reporter for KARE 11 News.

Karla loves living and reporting in her home state of Minnesota. She’s forever inspired by the character and courage of the people she meets every day on her stories. Karla attended St. Olaf College, where she graduated magna cum laude with a double major in English and Political Science. At St. Olaf, she was also inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society. She later graduated with a Master’s of International Affairs from Columbia University in New York, where she also earned a writing fellowship.

Karla worked as a newspaper reporter before embarking on her television journalism career. She worked as a reporter and anchor in southern Minnesota and Ohio before returning to her home state for a reporting job at WCCO-TV. She soon decided to cross the street to her “TV home” at KARE 11, where you’ll find her both reporting and anchoring. At KARE, Karla has received multiple awards, including the prestigious Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Political Journalism. But she remains most proud of her advocacy work against Alzheimer’s disease and for refugees. In fact, Karla’s work documenting her dad’s own Alzheimer’s journey -- in “So Many Goodbyes” -- ranks as the most difficult but rewarding projects in her journalism career. Her commitment to families and caregivers connected to this cruel disease also inspired Karla to launch a new company on Father’s Day 2021. The mission of So Many Goodbyes: you’re not alone... and we’re here to support you.

When Karla is not working, advocating or teaching tomorrow’s journalists back at her alma mater, St. Olaf College, she and her husband Gary are trying to keep up with their two daughters, Grace and Isabella.
Impossible

When we invest in our communities, we help turn impossible challenges into possible solutions. By sharing, growing, and encouraging, we can create a “can-do” spirit for our communities.

People Serving People, Inc., we proudly celebrate the success of your commitment and service to the community.

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People Serving People envisions a community where all children have the stability and support they need to thrive, where all families have a safe place to call home, and where racist roots of homelessness are lifted.

Your gift tonight helps families experiencing homelessness build their strong foundations.

Families Will Stay Housed
People Serving People is there for every family who needs shelter, but no family should experience homelessness. With support like yours, our new prevention program reaches families before they need to stay here. We provide flexible, individualized financial assistance and support. Dozens of families will remain in their homes because of donors like you.
Families Will Be Safe

We offer 99 hotel-style shelter rooms where families have warm beds, private baths, and secure locks. With an average stay of two months, your gift offers families comfort during one of the most stressful periods of their lives. In 2020, nearly 1300 people temporarily called People Serving People home.

Families Will Thrive

Families are empowered to identify their own goals and use any of our services that they need. These include a team of dedicated Advocates, employment assistance, financial education, and access to mental, physical, and chemical health care. In 2020, Advocates had over 9,000 meetings with parents.

Children Will Be Children

With 61% of our guests being children, we are there to give them the consistency and trauma-informed support they need. Whether it’s part of our infant and toddler care, afterschool programs, or summer activities, children have a place to express their emotions and grow into amazing human beings. During their time with us, 90% of children show significant developmental growth. Thank you for helping to make this difference.

Children Will See a Change

Homelessness does not happen in a vacuum. Homelessness is not the product of unfortunate coincidences. Homelessness results from widespread inequity, rooted in racism, classism, and sexism. Our work extends beyond our shelter walls — we are fierce advocates for real change and are fortunate to have you by our side.

Staying Sheltered

Aaron Weers, Operations Shift Lead
Abby Gatz, Lead Toddler Teacher CoE
Amanda Feltmann, Resident Resources Shift Lead Associate
Amirah Raheem, Lead Infant Teacher
Andrea Nordick-Stone, Director of Development
Anita Warkel, Resident Resources Coordinator
Ann Ibbarra, Food Services Manager
Beth Chalmers, Director of Finance
Brenda Hill, Resident Resources Manager
Brittany Harris, Housekeeping Shift Lead
Byran Phillips, Food Services Associate
Christine Smith, Senior Program Director
Cheryl White, Resident Resources Associate
Constance Embery, Human Resources Assistant
Craig Gregory, Senior Building Technician
Curita Scott, Front Desk Associate
Dave Paetznick, Food Services Associate
Deidre Malone, Resident Resources Associate
Erica Valliant, Whole Family Systems Manager
Fredericka Pierce, Front Desk Associate
Gail Allen, Center Administrator - CoE
Gabi Hockett, Teacher - CoE
Gabriella Perez, Educational Services Associate
Halley Norman, Volunteer Associate
Haley Wireman-Sobba, Educational Services Coordinator
Hannah Prusak, Lead Toddler Teacher
India Hampton, Whole Family Systems Project Assistant
Jaisy Hernandez, Prevention Coordinator
Jake Gale, Sr. Director of Operations & Planning
Jamier Sumrall, Educational Services Associate
Jason Zimlich, Maintenance Shift Lead
Jeff Pughstley, Community Safety Manager
Jennifer Medema, Operations Associate
Jocelyn Groce, Guest Services Coordinator
Joe Quil Crawford, Families for Finance Advocate
Johana Cornejo Cisneros, Teacher
Jolene Kabrick, Housekeeping Associate
Kaitlyn Murphy, Operations Associate
Kathryn Gerrick, Advocacy Services Coordinator
Katrina Ruetten, Lead Preschool Teacher
Ken Smith, Director of Administration and Compliance

Kendra Dickson, Center Director - CoE
LaLita James, Family Support Services Associate
Laquinesha Stevenson, Early Education Special Education Lead Teacher
Laura Hilario, Assistant Float Teacher
Laurel Illigren, Director of Family Supports
Lauren Bahe, Family Support Services Manager
LeAnn Ridespringer, Facilities Associate
Leonard Jones, Receiving / Inventory Specialist
Lenny Crawford, Food Services Associate
Lou Yang, Driver / Inventory Control Associate
Lourdes Pizha, Lead Teacher CoE
Lynda Nguum, Teacher - CoE - On Call
Makayla Bunge, Infant Teacher
Malisha Gosa, Toddler Teacher
Maria Moran Flores, Resident Resources Assistant Manager
Maria Pederson, Development Associate
Mary Hayes, Resident Resources Associate
Maryan Ahmed, Lead Preschool Teacher CoE
Megan Kocer, Individual Giving Officer
Meredith Johnson, Educational Services Manager
Meryt Watkins-Wright, Operations Associate
Metadel Lee, Resident Resources Associate - On Call
Michael Jost, Food Services Associate
Mikaela Ayim, Family Support Services Associate
Mosope Ani, Resident Resources Associate - On Call
Muntaz Lakha, Financial Services Manager
Nathan Axt, Maintenance Associate
Nicque Mabrey, Systems Change & Community Engagement Manager
Pamela Massie, Food Services Associate
Patricia Peoples, Educational Services Assistant Manager
Rebecca David, Communications Coordinator
Rinal Ray, Chief Executive Officer
Robert Piccolo, Lead Food Service Associate
Rodlyn Crawford, Food Services Coordinator
Ryan Gracie, Food Services Associate
Sarah Peterson, Human Resources Manager
Sarah Williams, Community Relations Manager
Sophia Ganapes, Teacher CoE
Steve Alley, Facilities Assistant Manager
Tara Taylor, Food Services Coordinator
Tatiana Kibwage, Family Support Services Associate
Taylor Gonda, Executive Administrative Coordinator
Tim Thornman, Facilities Manager
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AT&T is proud to sponsor People Serving People’s 22nd Annual Gala

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SAVE THE DATE

PEOPLE SERVING PEOPLE’S
23RD ANNUAL GALA

Staying Sheltered

October 29, 2022

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Volunteers

Thank you so much to all who dedicate their time to make a difference in the lives of children and families in our community!

Auction Donors

Thank you for making our auction a success!

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Houndstooth Modern Tavern Chef Dinner in your Home for 8

Let the team from Houndstooth Modern Tavern curate dinner and drinks for your party of eight. Your meal will be prepared in your home by Chef Rick Didora of Houndstooth Modern Tavern. Houndstooth features modern international flavors and classic French techniques. It’s a perfect opportunity to host a dinner party for an intimate group after being apart for so long.

Donors: Houndstooth Modern Tavern, Chicago Lake Liquors, and Seward Community Co-op

VIP Whiskey Tasting Trip to Louisville

Two lucky travelers will fly on Delta Airlines to Louisville KY and stay two nights at the historic Brown Hotel. Up to six people can be included in the VIP Tours at Maker’s Mark Distillery & Knob Creek Distillery.

To be experienced Spring 2022, with exact dates chosen by Knob Creek early in the year.

Donor: Craft and Crew Hospitality

Crooked Water Spirits Private Tasting & Appetizers for 8

Join Crooked Water Spirits’ owner/founder, Heather Manley, at her home in Minnetrista. Taste samplings from her spirits line while noshing on items cooked in Heather’s outdoor wood-burning oven. Ask questions and possibly sample unreleased spirits in this relaxed setting on an island overlooking protected waters & wildlife. Uber or Lyft transportation strongly recommended.

The experience runs 2.5 hours, to be scheduled with hostess. Must be used within 12 months of purchase.

Donor: Crooked Water Spirits

Rinal’s “Curry Diva” Class & Feast

People Serving People’s CEO, Rinal Ray, will host 4 to 6 people for a cooking class with “The Curry Diva,” Heather Jansz. During this 2-hour class, Heather will demonstrate the tricks of activation using spices and teach how to balance the body through food. We will create a flavorsome feast, eat well, and have fun!

Donor: Rinal Ray
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