



Young Professional Board Member Handbook Table of Contents

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Casey Baynes and the Casey Cares Foundation History

Throughout the years, Casey Baynes struggled with many obstacles, which have only served to increase her strength and determination. In spite of overhearing her teacher say she would never amount to anything due to her dyslexia; she received her AA degree before she even graduated high school, then graduated from Salisbury in 1996 with a B.A degree in Liberal Arts. Just two years later while also working fulltime, she became Towson State University's youngest master's degree recipient at age 20.

After graduating, Casey worked in the non-profit sector, but then went on to help run her family business. In 2000, after missing the sense of fulfillment from charity work, Casey discovered there was an unmet need for children suffering with a life-threatening illness. Although there were charities that provided money for research, a wish or sporadic opportunity, according to social workers and parents of critically ill children, there was no charity that was accommodating on an everyday basis when families really needed the support. Inspired by those discussions, and working relentlessly to secure office space, community support and a board of directors, Casey began the Casey Cares Foundation in 2000 to provide uplifting programs with a special touch for critically ill children and their families.

The early years were difficult for local charities because of competition for funds due to worldwide relief efforts associated with 9/11, the tsunami and Hurricane Katrina. Through Casey's persistence, the Casey Cares Foundation was not only built, but thrived during this time. It grew from serving a few families in Baltimore to helping families in eight states throughout the Mid-Atlantic, parts of the Midwest and Florida.

Casey is still extremely active at Casey Cares meeting as many of the families as possible. The charity is run day to day by a small group of compassionate volunteers and staff serving over 1400 families whose children are fighting cancer, sickle cell disease, cystic fibrosis, and a multitude of other life-threatening illnesses. Casey Cares has relied on individual and corporate support and sponsorships over its 22 years.

◇ **Mission Statement:** The Casey Cares Foundation mission is to provide uplifting programs *with a special touch* to enhance the lives of critically ill children and their families.

◇ **Vision Statement:** As we move through the 21st century, The Casey Cares Foundation envisions a community where critically ill children and their families are provided programs that encourage them to enjoy rather than endure life. We are committed to accomplishing this goal by:

- Working compassionately with families while trying to personalize our programs to fit their needs
- Working closely with hospitals to provide outreach programs
- Obtaining gifts-in-kind and fundraising

Summary of Casey Cares Palliative Programs

Family Festivities

We offer families opportunities to spend time together at sporting events, movies, and many other local attractions. Whenever possible, we enhance these events by providing extra goodies such as restaurant gift cards.

Birthday Blast

For families with critically ill children, each birthday is more than an annual celebration, it is a special milestone. We help children celebrate with a surprise package they receive in the mail.

Kami's Jammies

Inspired by the memory of a Casey Cares child, this program provides new sleepwear to children on extended hospital stays and homebound critically ill children. This program helps children feel more at home in otherwise sterile environment.

Caring Connections

This program encourages Casey Cares families to meet, share and support each other while taking part in themed parties.

Hammy's Heart

In memory of a Casey Cares child, Abraham "Hammy" Scrivner, Hammy's Heart was created to offer gift cards to families who need assistance with their grocery bills.

Better Together

Casey Cares continues to support families even after the loss of a child. During this difficult time, we hope to help families focus on healing by allowing them to take part in our programs for an additional year.

Scope

Leadership:

The Young Professional Board is a Volunteer Leadership Opportunity in cities East of the Mississippi. We will meet as a whole group for 4 zoom meetings per year as well as one in person networking weekend. Outside of these 5 meetings, all YPB happenings will occur with the local chapter. Each of the city groups will have one Chapter President who will be the main point of contact for their group and Casey Cares Foundation.

Quarterly Meetings:

The Young Professional Board will meet all together for 4 zoom meetings per year. We will have 4 main focuses throughout the course of the year.

We will begin each of these meetings by coming together as a whole group to celebrate our wins and discuss the goals for the upcoming quarter. We will then break out into groups and participate in a team brainstorming activity to get a jumpstart on the quarter's goals. Finally, we will come back together to share our progress and answer any lingering questions. Expect the meeting to last approximately one hour.

Between the Meetings:

Your local division will meet! Expect one shorter check-in zoom meeting with your local division and Mackenzie as an opportunity to check in on the quarter's goals sometime around the mid-quarter point. Your local division may also plan 2 or more social events such as happy hours or top golf for members. Attendance at these in-person events is definitely not required, but highly encouraged!

Mackenzie will be in touch with members about updates on Casey Cares happenings in their city as well as regarding progress on the goals for the quarter and providing assistance to members as needed. We will also be in touch with members regarding fundraising events and program opportunities for members to get involved with experiences for kiddos in their local area.

Expectations

Responsibilities of YP Board include:

- Understanding and promoting the organization's mission
- Being familiar with the organization's programs and operations
- Facilitating meaningful and personal introductions to contacts for each quarter's campaign
- Assisting in referring new members to the YPB and Advisory Board
- Being an advocate of Casey Cares within the workplace and community
- Helping to increase awareness amongst network via social media platforms

- Listing Casey Cares YPB as a Volunteer Leadership Position on your LinkedIn page and notifying your employer of your involvement in the organization