

The Perfect Match

In case this photo looks familiar, you may have known **LESLIE LEVENSON** when she was the Founder and CEO of the nonprofit, *Community Giving Tree*. After Leslie retired, we kept a close eye on this talented leader. And when the time was right, we recruited her into our family of hand-picked Essential Strategic Planning (ESP) volunteer facilitators.



Leslie Levenson, founder of Community Giving Tree and CIR strategic planner volunteer facilitator

In a little over a year, Leslie helped three wonderful Lawrence-serving nonprofits continue to move mountains by guiding them through their strategic planning process during uncertain Covid times.



The Lawrence History Center's Board of Directors hard at work during their Strategic Planning session facilitated by Leslie Levenson

Speak to Board members of the **MERRIMACK RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL**, **SI SE PUEDE** and the **LAWRENCE HISTORY CENTER** to hear first-hand accounts about Leslie's wisdom, ability to listen and focus her audience. According to Si Se Puede's Executive Director, "*Leslie Levenson was the perfect match.*"

They Love Their Jim

The minute we met **JIM STRICKLAND**, we knew we could not let him go! He appeared to have both the "smarts" and the disposition to be a superb Community InRoads volunteer. Turns out, we were right on!

It was a delight watching Jim work alongside of the Executive Director of the youth-serving nonprofit, **SI SE PUEDE** on several outstanding personnel issues – a dynamic twosome who got things done.



Volunteer Jim Strickland with Si Se Puede ED, Clarissa Osorez

Immediately following the SSP project, Jim's skills in employee relations were scooped up by **OPPORTUNITY WORKS**, a magnificent agency providing a myriad of opportunities for adults with disabilities. Both nonprofits love their Jim. And, frankly, so do we!

New Cultural Inclusion Coordinator

Our Cultural Inclusion Program not only recruits, trains and places talented local professionals of color onto nonprofit Boards – we are committed to help ensure that the board matches are successful for both recruits and nonprofits.



That's why we recently hired **MONIQUE MORIMOTO** as our part-time Cultural Inclusion Coordinator. Monique is a wise, gifted coach and DEIB consultant who knows how to bring out the beauty in all of us. Welcome, Monique. We are so deeply honored to have you as part of our Community InRoads family.



*Our executive-level roundtables provide a stage for nonprofits to forge trusting relationships and share best practices. This summer some members of our CFO Roundtable members snuck out from under Covid-imposed Zoom to break bread in person. Our ED Roundtable brings shared experiences addressing equity within our organizations. Thank you **BRAD HOWELL** (Fidelity House CRC) and **MONICA MANOSKI** (Essex Art Center) for leading the charge as our first two facilitators on the topic.*

The Match Maker Thanks Our Volunteers

BEYOND SOCCER thanks seasoned rock star volunteer **TODD SMITH** for signing up to lead their board through Board Roles to Board Goals.

COMMUNITY INROADS enthusiastically thanks **JUDITH KAMBER, ATTY. LIZ REINHARDT, STACY SEWARD** and **DENISE MOLINA** for facilitating Cultural Inclusion workshops.

CIR'S HEALTHY BOARD PROGRAM thanks **TODD SMITH** for leading our volunteers through Facilitator Meet Up sessions to discuss effective ways to facilitate Board Roles to Board Goals and strategic planning over Zoom. Yep, it's a crucial art worth perfecting these days.

ESSEX ART CENTER quickly recognized the HR talents of Cultural Inclusion grad **ELIZABETH SURIEL** and invited her onto their board. She said "yes" and they said "yay."

HAVERHILL TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE is grateful for **ATTY. RUSSELL PAUL (LAWYER'S CLEARINGHOUSE)** for his advice on best practices around liability.

JEANNE GEIGER CRISIS CENTER welcomes two new board members who are also Cultural Inclusion grads: **CLARIBEL GARCIA** and **SHAIANA NUNEZ**. **ALEXANDRA LUCIANO**, also a Cultural Inclusion grad, brings a plethora of experience onto their marketing committee.

LAWRENCE COMMUNITY WORKS is a growing, much revered nonprofit offering expanding services for Lawrence. Along with growth come questions about space. Thanks to our relationship with **NETSCOUT, INC.** we were able to match LCW with Netscout's most awesome space planner, **STEVE JACKSON**.

LAWRENCE HISTORY CENTER'S sharp ED wanted a special kind of strategic planning facilitator who could get the job done quickly and effectively - someone nimble, focused, and a good listener. She got just that with volunteer **LESLIE LEVENSON**.

LAWRENCE PARTNERSHIP'S new and very talented deputy director thought it wise to have some sessions with an executive coach to discuss her goals and aspirations. **TAMMIE FOOTE** stepped in with both feet (Or in Tammie's case "with both footes.")

LAZARUS HOUSE was lucky to engage database guru **DAVID DREYFUS** for a follow-on project testing the major enhancements he made on their Project Bethlehem database. Additionally, their food pantry director is so grateful for **DENISE CONRY'S** donation of a much needed scanner.

MERRIMACK VALLEY DREAM NETWORK thanks **ATTY. DAMON THOMAS** for his legal review of applications for city permits.

OPPORTUNITY WORKS thanks **JIM STRICKLAND** for 3 follow-on projects : review of job descriptions, framework for a strategic plan, and a new evaluation tool. Also, a shout-out to **DENISE CONRY** for donating a spanking new scanner.

PROJECT HOME AGAIN (PHA) says they are over the moon in love with strategic planning facilitator **TRACY SOPCHAK**.

SI SE PUEDE is profoundly thankful for two new board members from our Cultural Inclusion Program - **ALEX CUEVAS** and **JOSEPH URENA**. Two very special gents.

THE WOMEN'S FUND feels fortunate to have recruited **ALEXANDRA NOVA** and **ANABELLE RONDON** onto their advisory board. Two superb professionals joining a truly wonderful foundation.

YMCA LAWRENCE is all smiles having just brought on Cultural Inclusion graduate **ANGELIN PENA** onto their board of directors.