

greater rochester

# Health *foundation*

## Board of Directors



**Connie O. Walker**  
**Retired**  
**Board Chair**

A graduate of the State University College at Brockport and Syracuse University College of Law, Walker is a former law clerk to U.S. District Court Judge Frank P. Geraci, Western District, New York. Connie was the first African American female president of the Monroe County Bar Association, and a recipient of the 2014 Kay Crawford Murray Award which recognizes an attorney who enhances diversity in the profession and advances the professional development of women attorneys.



**Thomas M. Bartlett, CFA**  
**Partner**  
**Cobblestone Capital Advisors**

Tom is a co-founder of Cobblestone and serves as a Senior Partner, Portfolio Manager, Chief Compliance Officer, and member of the Investment Committee. He received a B.A. degree in History from Washington and Lee University and has earned the Chartered Financial Analyst designation. Prior to co-founding Cobblestone, he served as Vice President at JP Morgan Chase. Tom is a board member and Assistant Treasurer of the Urban League of Rochester and a former board member and treasurer of the Allendale Columbia School and the CFA Society of Rochester.



**Jose Canario, MD**  
**Chief Medical Officer**  
**Finger Lakes Community Health**

Dr. Jose R Canario specializes in Family Medicine. He is fluent in Spanish in both speaking and the written translation. Dr. Canario received his medical degree from Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, Va. He completed his Internship at the Naval Medical Center in

Portsmouth, VA and his Residency at the University of Rochester at Highland Hospital in Rochester, NY, in Family Medicine. He has served as a United States Naval Officer, and he is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians and the National Hispanic Medical Association.

Dr. Canario's approach to patient care involves creating and maintaining a partnership with his patients. He says, "I don't believe I 'provide health,' instead I guide individuals, and their families, to better health through listening, advising, teaching, and making decisions together." He feels that understanding a community through its individuals and families helps with the treatment of many health problems.

Before becoming a family physician, Dr. Canario first served as a United States Naval Officer. He was awarded the Naval Achievement Medal for successfully organizing, training for, and passing a major Naval engineering inspection onboard a Naval ship. He then was stationed at a training command teaching doctors, lawyers, and nurses how to become Naval Officers.



**Linda Clark, MD, MS, FACPM**  
**Chief Medical Officer**  
**Common Ground Health**

As Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Linda Clark provides strategic counsel to Common Ground's initiatives from a medical perspective. A practicing physician and long-time advocate for health equity and population health, Dr. Clark brings to her position more than two decades of experience in occupational and preventive medicine, with a focus on substance-use disorders. Dr. Clark is a research assistant professor in SUNY Buffalo's Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health and Public Health and an adjunct assistant professor in Public Health Sciences at University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. She was a member of the African American Health Coalition for 18 years, including serving as co-chair. Dr. Clark has chaired the annual Faith and Medicine conference and is a co-founder and board chair of the Black Physicians Network of Greater Rochester, which supports efforts to reduce health disparities, mentors medical students and raises money for scholarships

Active in community-based organizations and in the medical community, Dr. Clark serves on the board of director of St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center, on the Committee to Eliminate Health Disparities of the Medical Society of The State of New York and on the Monroe County Medical Society's Quality Committee. Honors for her community service include the Raymond L. Graves Beloved Community Award and the Woman of Distinction Award from Girl Scouts of Western N.Y.



**Sady Fischer, CDP**  
**Director of Inclusion, Diversity & Equity**  
**Excellus BCBS**

Sady Fischer, CDP (she/her) is the Corporate Director of Inclusion, Diversity & Equity at Excellus BlueCross BlueShield. She excels at creating opportunities for open, honest conversations around unconscious bias, power & privilege, LGBTQ+ inclusion, racial justice and other social justice issues. A nationally Certified Diversity Professional, having received her BA in Gender Studies from SUNY Empire State College. She is a former community educator and prevention specialist for Trillium Health Care as well as the Associate Director of Minority Health Initiatives where she directed a team that provided educational, supportive and advocacy service for women and communities of color. She remains engaged in community through volunteer efforts.



**Sage Gerling, MA**  
**City Manager**  
**Geneva, NY**

Growing up in Austin, Texas, Sage Gerling never imagined she would live in a small town with snowy winters. College and early adulthood took her to Dallas, London, Los Angeles and finally Chicago, where she became acquainted with cold weather and developed an interest in public spaces as vehicles for community enrichment and connections. She then moved to Ithaca to begin dual Master's degrees in landscape architecture and regional planning. At Cornell, Sage decided that the Finger Lakes were a great place to live, and marrying a lifelong FL resident didn't hurt.

Sage is now the City Manager of the City of Geneva, where she leads the administrative side of local government, as well as economic development initiatives. Previously, she was the Director of the Office of Neighborhood Initiatives

for the City, where she managed community development projects and neighborhood programs in a variety of shapes and sizes. Prior to working in local government, Sage worked for edr companies in Rochester and Syracuse, where she assisted with urban planning and design projects in many upstate communities. In her spare time, she enjoys playing on playgrounds with her kids, walking in her neighborhood and spending as much time as possible with her family along the shores of the Finger Lakes.



**Kenneth L. Hines, CIMA, CPFA  
Senior Vice President and Wealth Management Advisor  
Merrill Lynch  
Board Secretary**

Kenneth Hines is a Senior Vice President of Merrill Lynch with 35 years of experience. His practice has investment management and planning responsibility for individuals, pension plans and endowments. He holds advanced certifications as a Certified Investment Management Analyst®, CIMA®. He is also a Certified Plan Fiduciary Advisor. Ken currently serves as a Director on the board of the MCC Foundation as Chair of the Investment Committee and as an advisor/consultant to the Boards of the American Baptist Foundation in Valley Forge PA and serves on the Investment Advisory Council to American Baptist Home Mission Society. He has also served on the boards of The Rochester Area Community Foundation, GEVA, Colgate Crozier Seminary (Finance committee Chair) and The Urban League of Rochester.



**Sanford Mayer, M.D. FAAP, (Sandy)  
Clinical Professor of Pediatrics  
University of Rochester School of Medicine  
Board Vice Chair**

After earning an undergraduate BS degree in Chemistry at St. Lawrence University and attending medical school at Free University of Brussels (Brussels, Belgium), Dr. Mayer completed an internship at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center in Syracuse, NY. Followed by a residency program in pediatrics at the Children's Hospital Medical Center of Akron in Akron, Ohio.



**Thomas Mucha, CFA (Tom)**  
**Managing Director**  
**CIO, Pension Investments Worldwide**  
**Eastman Kodak Company**

Tom is responsible for the management of the Company's global defined benefit and defined contribution pension plans, totaling over \$4 billion and \$3 billion respectively. Prior to joining Kodak in 2011, Tom was with the Williams College Investment Office, Ramius, and Bridgewater Associates. He holds a BA in Economics from Harvard College.



**Robert Oppenheimer (Bob)**  
**Retired**  
**Ex-Officio**

Bob Oppenheimer is a founding Board Member of the Greater Rochester Health Foundation. As a member of Preferred Care's board of directors, Bob was active in the negotiations associated with the merger of Preferred Care and MVP health plans and the negotiations with the State of New York that formed the foundation. Bob graduated from Oberlin College, cum laude and Harvard Law School, LL.B. In addition to his service in the US Army, Bob has served in various roles including managing partner at Chamberlain, D'Amada, Oppenheimer & Greenfield; president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce; vice president of the Jewish Young Men's and Women's Association; chair of Park Ridge Hospital.



**Paul A. Pettit**  
**Director of Public Health**  
**Genesee and Orleans County**

Paul is the current Public Health Director of the Genesee and Orleans County Health Departments, located in Western New York.

Paul has a bachelor's degree from the University of Rochester in Environmental Health, a Master's of Science degree in Strategic Leadership from Roberts Wesleyan College and a certificate in Public Health from the University at Albany. In July 2011, Paul completed the Northeast Regional Public Health Leadership Institute Scholars program, focusing on leadership in lean financial times and completed the Leadership Fellow's program through the Community Health Foundation of Central and Western New York in 2017 and a recent fellowship with the

Kresge Foundations Leaders in Public Health program focusing on championing the chief health strategist role for his departments and developing a comprehensive telehealth program in Genesee and Orleans Counties.

Paul has worked in Public Health for over 21 years, starting as an Environmental Health Technician, moving up through the division to Environmental Health Director in 2007. He became Public Health Director in January of 2008. In 2012, Paul also became the Director of Health for Genesee County through a collaborative cross jurisdictional sharing (CJS) project focusing on the integration of public health through shared services. In addition to serving on many local, regional and state Board of Directors, Paul is a past President of the New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO), recently appointed to the New York State Rural Health Council and very active in state wide public health issues and policy advocacy. Paul is also an adjunct professor and currently teaching classes at SUNY Brockport and the University at Buffalo.



**Yisette Rivas, MHA  
Chief Service Officer  
Finger Lakes Community Health**

Yisette joined Finger Lakes Community Health in September of 2018 as the Chief Service Officer overseeing all supportive services including their Community Health Worker Program, HUNNY Care Management, Transportation, Insurance Enrollment, Patient Navigation and Family Planning. She has more than 10 years of leadership experience in the health care industry with a primary focus on health center operations, social determinants of health management and provider collaboration.

Prior to joining Finger Lakes Community Health, Yisette served as a Regional Program Manager with the Finger Lakes Performing Provider System (FLPPS). Yisette oversaw provider relations & project implementation of Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP), a New York State initiative focused on the Medicaid population and significantly reducing avoidable hospitalization and improvement of clinical outcomes. Yisette also served as Program Manager at Trillium Health, where she led the health center through their FQHC application process designated in 2015. Prior to her work in program management, Yisette served her community in direct service roles as a Care Manager and Treatment

Adherence Counselor which ignited her passion working with underserved populations.



**Michael A. Scharf, M.D. (Mike)**  
**Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics**  
**University of Rochester Medical Center**

Dr. Scharf earned his undergraduate and Medical degrees at The State University of New York at Buffalo and completed residency training in General Psychiatry and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Rochester. He is currently the Chief of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Division and Director of Psychiatry Graduate Medical Education at the University of Rochester Medical Center. Dr. Scharf is a founding member and leader of the Rochester Youth Violence Partnership, a University Hospital based program partnering with community agencies.



**Hezekiah Simmons**  
**Former CFO and VP Admin Services**  
**Monroe Community College**

Mr. Simmons (aka "Heze") joined Monroe Community College as assistant vice president in March, 2003 and was appointed vice president in September, 2008. He has a B.S. in Chemistry, cum laude from Johnson C. Smith University and a M.B.A. in Finance from Harvard Business School. He has served as President for SUNY'S Community College Business Officers Association (CCBOA), and is currently a member of the constituent council for community colleges of the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO). He is a member of the East House Board of Directors, Rochester New York, the ROC SALT Board of Directors, Rochester, New York and moderator for the Presbytery of Genesee Valley.

The Administrative Services division manages the financial health, technology and physical infrastructure of the college. The Administrative Services vice president ensures that the college complies with financial rules and regulations and provides a safe, clean and up-to-date environment for the college community. Primary responsibilities include budget development, financial reporting, finance and accounting, facilities, procurement, public safety and security, technology services, risk management and internal audit. Heze is married to AnnMarie Simmons with two children, four grandchildren and one great grandchild. The one fun - fact about Heze; my children tell me I am completely unrecognizable when not in office uniform. To me, it is called relaxation.



**Christine Wagner, PhD (Sr. Chris)**  
**Special Advisor**  
**St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center**

A Rochester native, she attended area colleges and did her post graduate work in Social Sciences at Syracuse University. A sister of St. Joseph, she was the founder of St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center which serves the uninsured in the Greater Rochester area with primary care, counseling, dental and social services assistance.



**Bridgette Wiefeling, M.D.,**  
**Internal Medicine Physician President**  
**Senior Vice President**  
**Rochester Regional Health**  
**Board Treasurer**

Dr. Wiefeling earned her medical degree from the University of Wisconsin Medical School and completed her dual residency at the University of Rochester. She held a clinical faculty position at the U of R and worked as an FDA Pediatric Advisory Committee consultant. Dr Wiefeling has served in multiple leadership roles for the system, including chief quality officer and senior vice president and executive director of the Rochester General Medical Group. Prior to joining Rochester Regional, she was the CEO of the Anthony L. Jordan Community Center.



**Matthew A. Kuhlenbeck, PhD (Matt)**  
**President & CEO**  
**Greater Rochester Health Foundation**  
**Ex-Officio**

Appointed in January 2019, Matthew leads the Greater Rochester Health Foundation in its efforts to improve the health and wellness of adults and children throughout Rochester and its surrounding nine-county region. Prior to joining, he served as program director at the Missouri Foundation for Health, where he led a \$20-million annual portfolio of responsive grantmaking during his 16-year tenure. He received his PhD from Saint Louis University's School of Public Health, holds a M.H.A degree from Saint Louis University's School of Public Health, and a B.S. degree in Community Health and Health Administration from Northern Illinois University School of Public Health.