

Founding Member Biographies, 2001

Jessica King, Executive Director

Currently serving as Executive Director of Mennonite Urban Corps, Pittsburgh. B.A. in Liberal Arts from Eastern Mennonite University, 1996. Minors in English, Psychology & Teaching English as a Second Language. Coursework in Community Development and Nonprofit Management at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. Five years of nonprofit management experience, one as Executive Director. Interim Assistant Editor for Gospel Herald (weekly magazine of the North American Mennonite Church). Volunteer work: three years of grade school tutoring experience; one year as tutoring coordinator. One year Teaching English as a Second Language to local immigrants. Youth Mentor.

Justin Rothshank, Associate Director

Currently working as an apprentice for a fine woodworker at I Design in Pittsburgh. B.A. in Studio Art from Goshen College, 2000. Minor in Multimedia Communications. Five years of construction rehabilitation with a non-profit organization. Two years as youth soccer coach.

Keith Hershberger

Currently working as a production potter for Zotter the Potter, Pittsburgh. B.A. in Fine Arts from Goshen College, 1994. Two summers ceramics instructor and outdoor adventure leader at Hidden Valley Camp. Three years ceramics instructor and technician at Manchester Craftsmen's Guild. Three years tutor at East Liberty Presbyterian Church. Three years member Worship Commission, Pittsburgh Mennonite Church. Two CD's of original music released.

Heather Kropf

Currently employed as co-coordinator of after school tutoring program (ExtraOrdinary Tutoring) in East Liberty, with East End Cooperative Ministry. B.A. in studio art from Goshen College, 1995. Minor in communication. Intern at WYEP as Assistant Music Director. Three years additional at WYEP in various positions: Traffic Director, Host of Sunday Music Mix, host of Afternoon of Ideas. Ten years experience in food services, all aspects. Freelance artist, watercolors, prints, quilt designs. 10 years experience as freelance singer/songwriter, One CD of original music released.

Chad Martin

Currently employed as ceramics instructor at Manchester Craftsmen's Guild in Pittsburgh with weekly time spent at Peabody High School. Currently serving on Worship Commission at Pittsburgh Mennonite Church. B.A. in studio art from Goshen College, 1998. Two years as a member of Board of Directors of Mennonite Urban Corps.

Philip Nisly

Currently employed as photography instructor at Manchester Craftsmen's Guild in Pittsburgh. B.A. in International Agriculture from Eastern Mennonite University, 1997. Minors in Art and Spanish. Experience and instruction in bookbinding and ceramics. Experience in urban gardening with youth. Four years experience in mentoring grade and high school youth.

Jennifer Rohrer

Currently Art Educator at Saint Bede Elementary School, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Grades Kindergarten - 8. B.A. in Art and K-12 Education from Goshen College, 1993. State University of New York, three-week art & architecture study tour, Greece. Art Educator, Westview Elementary School. Independent Art Studio, painting, 1994-1995. Art Educator, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, and Carnegie Museum of Art (Children's studio); designed and implemented curriculum.

Ryan Sauder

Currently working as a Scientific Writer for University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute. B.A. in Chemistry from Goshen College, 1997. MA in History and Philosophy of Science w/emphasis in Medical Ethics from University of Pittsburgh, 2000. Completed Webmaster Certification Course from University of Pittsburgh, September 2000. Two years as Organic Chemistry Laboratory Assistant, one year as Teacher's Assistant in History and Philosophy of Science Department.

John Stahl-Wert

Currently working as President of the Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation, a Christian resource foundation serving 1,000 congregations and non-profits in Pittsburgh. The Foundation contributes over \$11 million annually to community building and youth-focused programs. D.Min. in Urban Studies from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, M.A. in Theological Studies from Goshen Biblical Seminary, B.S. in Social Work from Eastern Mennonite College. Founder/ Board Chair of Mennonite Urban Corps. Member of Mennonite Board of Education. Overseer for Allegheny Mennonite Conference. Former pastor of Pittsburgh Mennonite Church. Former Urban Ministry Director for Mennonite Board of Missions. Former Moderator for Allegheny Mennonite Conference. Former Voluntary Service Director for Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions.

Milonica Stahl-Wert

Mother of two girls and a watercolor painter. B.S. in Social Work from Eastern Mennonite University. Year of study at Goshen Biblical Seminary. Trained Mediator. YMCA ASSIST training (domestic violence intervention). Denominational Consultant for Clergy Sexual Misconduct. Certification from The Somatic Institute, Pittsburgh (body therapy).

Employment: Daycare/Teacher Aide, Mental Health Counselor, Office of Aging Case Manager, Actress/Road Manager with Bridgework Theater, Pastor of Pittsburgh Mennonite Church, Meals-On-Wheels Coordinator, coreSomatic Practitioner. Developed “Action Plan for North Point Breeze Planning & Development Corporation.” Co-wrote/implemented Peace Postures for Children, an eight-week arts and community building curriculum for public school children at East Hills Elementary School.

Janelle Thomas

Currently working as adult literacy coordinator for the Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council. B.A. in English from Eastern Mennonite University, 1995. Minors in Art and Spanish. One-year internship in public relations office, two years as administrator of Pittsburgh-based Community Development Corporation Arts Resource Initiative (CDC-ARI), four years experience mentoring high school students in visual/language arts at the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild. Co-led summer mural painting project.

