



## ST. LOUIS BOARD MEMBERS

*Transforming cities by building long term life-changing relationships with Urban Youth.*

### Organizational History

[Elevate USA](#) emerged from the work of Colorado UpLift, a nonprofit youth service organization founded in Denver in 1982 with a mission of building long-term, life-changing relationships with urban youth. The organizational model, a proven best practice program, has been teaching character, leadership, and life skills in the public schools while providing a relationally driven mentoring program outside school over the past 33 years to urban youth. This holistic, 24/7/365 relational approach has successfully decreased the high school dropout rate and increased the rate of enrollment into college, military or technical training programs.

Given the success of Colorado UpLift, over the past six years, Elevate USA affiliate programs were developed in Phoenix, Orlando, New York City, and Indianapolis, with Boston and Los Angeles moving toward full affiliation as well. Each of these cities have similar results as Colorado UpLift, confirming the assumption that the program is replicable in diverse cities and communities. Colorado UpLift currently serves approximately 5,600 students per year while the other combined affiliates serve approximately 3,340 students, indicating the potential for high impact and scope.



This replication success led Colorado UpLift to develop the Elevate USA organization, specifically dedicated to the purpose of launching new UpLift

model programs while strengthening the existing affiliate programs, ensuring best practice models throughout all affiliates.

Recently, Elevate USA has been invited by the Superintendent of the Ferguson School District to implement their program into the school systems in Ferguson, Missouri and help bring the change the city desperately needs. Given this invitation, Elevate St. Louis will begin in Ferguson with plans to quickly expand to the St. Louis school district as well. As Elevate St. Louis starts up, they are seeking to put a local Board in place.

The Board will support the work of Elevate St. Louis and provide mission-based leadership and strategic governance. While day-to-day operations are led by Elevate's Executive Director (ED), the relationship between the Board and the ED is a partnership, and the appropriate involvement of the Board is both critical and expected.

### Board Member Qualifications

This is an extraordinary opportunity for an individual who is passionate about Elevate St. Louis's mission and who has a track record of board leadership. Selected Board Members will have achieved leadership stature in business, government, philanthropy, or the nonprofit sector. His/her accomplishments will allow him/her to attract other well-qualified, high-performing Board Members.

Ideal candidates will have the following qualifications:

- Extensive professional experience with significant executive leadership accomplishments in business, government, philanthropy, or the nonprofit sector
- A commitment to and understanding of Elevate St. Louis's beneficiaries, preferably based on experience
- Savvy diplomatic skills and a natural affinity for cultivating relationships and persuading, convening, facilitating, and building consensus among diverse individuals
- Personal qualities of integrity, credibility, and a passion for improving the lives of Elevate St. Louis's beneficiaries

### **Board Member Responsibilities**

Elevate St. Louis Board Members will have reviewed the mission, values, beliefs and practices of the Elevate model and will be in full agreement with these convictions.

Specific Board Member responsibilities include:

#### *Leadership, governance and oversight*

- Serving as a trusted advisor to the ED as s/he develops and implements Elevate St. Louis's strategic plan
- Approving Elevate St. Louis's annual budget, audit reports, and material business decisions; being informed of, and meeting all, legal and fiduciary responsibilities
- Contributing to an annual performance evaluation of the ED
- Assisting the ED and board chair in identifying and recruiting other Board Members
- Serving on committees or task forces and taking on special assignments
- Representing Elevate St. Louis to stakeholders; acting as an ambassador for the organization

#### *Fundraising*

- Elevate St. Louis Board Members will consider Elevate St. Louis a philanthropic priority and make annual gifts that reflect that priority. So that Elevate St. Louis can credibly solicit contributions from foundations, organizations, and individuals, Elevate St. Louis expects to have 100 percent of Board Members make an annual contribution that is commensurate with their capacity.

#### *Board terms/participation*

- Elevate St. Louis's Board Members will serve a three-year term to be eligible for re-appointment for multiple terms. Board meetings will be held [monthly in the beginning then quarterly] and committee meetings will be held in coordination with full board meetings.
- Additionally, Elevate St. Louis Board Members will regularly attend board meetings and will make a serious commitment to participate in committee activities.

Interested in more information on this position? Contact Halftime Talent Solutions:

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