



## **Cynthia L. Haines**

**President and CEO, The Hear Foundation**

A native of Pittsburgh, Cynthia Haines has been serving western Pennsylvania for more than 25 years through her leadership of community-centered programs that serve diverse, underserved populations, particularly in the areas of housing, early childhood development, food insecurity, mental health, substance use disorder and violence prevention.

Prior to joining The Hear Foundation as president and CEO, Cindy served for eight years as executive director of Focus on Renewal, a \$4.4 million, 40-person, not-for-profit serving the Sto-Rox and surrounding community. Focus on Renewal's programs provide support to help families become more financially secure, provide access to life-changing learning environments, promote optimal early childhood development, and engage community members through arts and culture. Working from a community-centered approach to neighborhood engagement and development and a mission grounded in body, mind, and spirit connectedness, Cindy oversaw The Father Ryan Arts Center in McKees Rocks, The Sto-Rox Public Library and The Community Resource Center, including its food pantry and violence reduction workforce programs.

Cindy also served 17 years as a community builder and senior management analyst with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In this capacity she coordinated Rapid Results Homeless Veteran Boot Camps, served as a liaison for homeless initiatives and programs, and chaired the Region 3 Interagency Council on Homelessness Operations and Communications Committee. While at HUD, Cindy was widely acknowledged as a national subject matter expert on federal grant writing, often traveling across the country to provide capacity building and grant writing workshops to under-resourced faith-based and community organizations. Her work with HUD also included technical assistance to external and community development stakeholders on fiscal survival and sustenance.

Cindy has served as executive director of Bridge to Independence, an organization providing community-based programs focusing on homeless women, infants and children. She raised more than \$2 million in 18 months to

create permanent supportive housing programs and workforce development programs and founded such programs as Families First, Family Focus, Peak Performance and Woman to Woman.

She was the former executive director of Tempering the Valley of Steel, where she led a prevention and intervention program, and designed and implemented community chemical dependency prevention, intervention and educational programs with students, community leaders and other stakeholders in McKeesport, Aliquippa, and Monessen. Previously, she held positions with Abraxas, Glenbeigh Hospital, Erie County Rape Crisis Center, and Lake County Center on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

Cindy has served as a board member of P.O.W.E.R., South Hills Interfaith Movement, Gemini Theater, and Ohio Valley Hospital, and as a Collective Impact Fundraiser with 100+ Women Who Care – Pittsburgh, and the Southwestern Pennsylvania philanthropy group WOMEN (Women Organized to Mentor, Empower and Network).

Cindy holds a bachelor's degree in law enforcement and juvenile justice from Mercyhurst University, a master's degree in social science administration from Case Western Reserve University and completed an intensive executive certificate program in community organizing, contracts, and racial justice at Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government.