

Ruth E. Curran, MS

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[Impact](#) • [LinkedIn](#) • Denver, CO

Philanthropy | Strategy | Storytelling

Collaborative leader, mentor, and communications expert, committed to inspiring positive action.

Social impact advocate with an entrepreneurial spirit, operations expertise, and a deep understanding of non-profit systems and process, and the philanthropy space. A trained counsellor and self-starter, able to tackle issues from the root, synthesize perspectives, and bring people together to generate revenue and serve common philanthropic goals. Trusted to collaborate in boardrooms and isolated villages alike, to lead teams, build connections, and facilitate operations. Track record of translating data into relatable human stories that showcase the heart of an organization, compel action, and expand reach. Tested and proven social impact strategist, learning and evaluation creator, and strong brand storyteller. Author of “Being Brain Healthy”, co-author of “An Insider’s Guide to the Injured Brain”, and contributing author in “Road to Recovery: A Family Guide for Traumatic Brain Injury.” Areas of expertise include:

- Operations Process Management
- Brand Storytelling
- PR, Marketing & Communications
- Continuous Process Improvement
- Social Media Strategy
- Community Engagement
- Relationship Management
- Grant & Contract Management
- Learning & Evaluation Systems
- Impact Data Analysis
- Budget & Financial Management
- Compliance, Policy & Regulations

Career Experience

Strategist and Program Shepherd (Consultant), Rise Against Hunger, Raleigh, NC

12/ 2020 – 3/2021

Guiding a team to pilot an effective virtual presence that adapts engagement and fundraising strategy to match the current COVID-19 environment and beyond. Mentoring team to focus on process, systems, measurements, and continuous improvement. Focusing on identifying new markets, key indicators, and strong messaging positions to seek future outreach opportunities. Successfully leading and executing projects in this 100% remote position.

- Launching two strategic initiatives to bring in new sources of revenue and points of engagement.
- Creating strategic outreach campaigns focused on process to expand media reach and partnerships.

Director of Strategic Partnerships, Global Volunteers, St. Paul, MN

12/ 2017 –11/ 2020

Established deep relationships and facilitated groups to advance the mission of short-term volunteer impact and efforts, with a focus on a ground-breaking child and maternal health program, the Reaching Children’s Potential program. Cultivated and nurtured strategic partnerships with academic institutions, faith-based organizations, corporations, government entities, NGO’s, and community partners to support global causes. Developed targeted methods, systems, and processes with an eye on learning, measurement, evaluation, reporting, and continuous improvement. Developed and managed departmental budgets. Mentored cross-functioning teams to write and apply for grants, tell impactful stories for causes leveraging the latest communication tools, and uphold data integrity. Created impact reports to determine a new direction for the brand. Successfully delivered results in this 100% remote position. Salesforce NPSP, Adobe Suite, Google Suite, Microsoft Suite.

- Shifted this 35-year-old brand’s positioning to focus on impact, donations, and grants during the travel pause created by the pandemic.
- Developed, implemented, and coached staff to employ the organization’s first learning and evaluation system from theory of change to logic models.
- Led organization’s first donor driven fundraising effort raising to leverage a \$250,000 match.

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- Championed the UN's sustainable Development Goals by recruiting teams of volunteers to serve on long-term development projects.
- Coached the team to successfully implement the media plan, from developing a calendar to using brand-centric language and messaging.
- Developed operational processes, policies, and impact evaluation scales.
- Established a long-term executive level strategy with both internal and external partner organizations.

Managing Partner, Brain Based Solutions, San Diego, CA

09/ 2011 – 04/ 2018

Built a brand to promote brain health. Served as chief storyteller, brand advocate, and community liaison. Developed and adopted novel methods to assist in the recovery of brain injury and stroke survivors. Functioned as a cognitive retraining coach, counselor, and therapist. Designed and maintained website and aggressive, broad reaching social media marketing. Full responsibility for budgets, finances, and contracts.

- Created 'Cranium Crunches' online brain training exercises and apps.
- Published two books and spoke at 30+ local and national events including AARP's Life@50+ and Aging in America.

Chief Sustainability Officer, Plug 'n Save Energy Products, San Diego, CA

02/10 – 04/2013

Ignited a culture focused on the triple bottom line (people, planet, profits) while making environmentally friendly living the center of all actions in this start-up designing alternative energy products.

- Coached the leadership team to navigate business, and present themselves with a focus on planet health and sustainability.

Executive Director, The Evergreen Project, San Diego, CA

01/2008 – 12/2010

Directed this nonprofit organization focused on educating people to change the way they think about sustainable living and their impact on the planet. Managed all internal operations, budgets, staff and initiatives. Built and led team and ensured engagement. Leveraged strong relationships with statewide school districts and boards. Led fundraising, policy creation, goal-setting, and advocacy efforts. Donor Perfect, Microsoft suite, Adobe Suite.

- Led the effort to create educational tools and classroom supports to groom future advocates. Piloted in four schools in the San Diego Unified School District, reaching 1300, 7th and 9th grade students district-wide.
- Created and executed two signature fundraising events that provided 100% of project funding and broad media exposure for innovative sustainability focused educational tools.

Consultant | Trainer | Workshop Leader, Quality Based Solutions, Bailey, CO

09/2007 – 12/2009

Partnered with nonprofit organizations, research teams, and public entities nationally, with the goal to consult in the building and development of successful outreach programs Led workshops and trainings on the creation of effective mission statements, operational policies, and board elections; coached professional fundraisers; and help implement continuous process improvement systems employing principles of TQM.

Additional Experience: Director, Quality of Care at Options Homecare (2005 – 2007); Director at Platte Canyon Community Health Clinic and Platte Canyon School Based Health Clinic (2003 – 2005); and Vice President of Operations, COO, at Fantastic Plastic, Inc., (1989 – 2003).

Education

Master of Science in Counseling Psychology

Walden University, Minneapolis, MN

Bachelor of Science in Psychology

Regis University, Denver, CO

Affiliations

Reaching Children's Potential, Advisory Board Member, 2014 – Present

Allies for Women, Board Member, 2017 – Present

San Diego Brain Injury Foundation, Board Member, 2012 – 2021

Doris A. Howell Foundation for Women's Health, Board Member, 2018 – 2020

Global Volunteers, Board Member, 2017 – 2018

Rise to Empower, Board Member, 2015 – 2017