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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS Q & A

### *Are you a good fit to be on the FHF of GNO Board of Directors?*

Families Helping Families of Greater New Orleans (FHFofGNO) is a family resource center for families of individuals with disabilities or special healthcare needs and youth and adults with disabilities and special healthcare needs. Founded in 1991 by parents of children with disabilities, FHFofGNO has focused on supporting and mentoring families while they navigate the often complicated disability services delivery system.

FHFofGNO was founded on the belief that:

- Children with disabilities, regardless of the severity, need their families and family relationships to develop to their fullest potential; and
- Adults with disabilities should be allowed to make decisions for themselves and live in typical homes and communities where they can exercise their full rights and responsibilities as citizens.

### What does the Board of Directors Do?

FHFofGNO's Board of Directors is made of **volunteers** who share their expertise, influence, knowledge, lived experiences, and resources to create long-term sustainability for the organization. Board members come from a wide range of personal and professional backgrounds. The Board is responsible for governance, not day-to-day activities. Their primary duties are to steer the organization towards a sustainable future by adopting sound, ethical, legal governance and financial management policies and ensuring it has adequate resources to advance its mission.

- Board members are passionate advocates, champions of our cause, and stewards of our mission.
- Board members make FHFofGNO one of their philanthropic priorities and leverage connections and networks to bring additional resources to the organization.
- Board members are our number one ambassadors.



*More importantly...  
She taught us how to be an  
advocate!*

FHFofGNO has been an invaluable resource for our family for the past three years. In 2018, my husband and I knew we were in over our heads trying to navigate the school system's IEP process and how behavioral issues were being handled.

FHFofGNO taught us how to be an advocate, helped bridge the gaps with the school system, and we are now all working in unison to help Max have the best academic future possible. We are forever grateful.

THE MACIAS FAMILY

## What is the time commitment?

- Board members are elected for a 3-year term and may serve up to 2 consecutive terms.
- The entire Board of Directors meets every other month, and committees and work groups meet monthly or as needed.
- Each board member is required to serve on at least one committee.
- Board members spend an average of 5 - 10 hours a month doing board work, attending meetings, participating in committee work, and being an ambassador for FHFofGNO in the community.

## Are you the right fit for FHFofGNO?

If you can say yes to the following, you could be a great fit:

- **You are passionate about the cause** - you have a passion for individuals with disabilities and believe everyone has the right to reach their full potential.
- **You are an inclusionist at heart** - you believe individuals with disabilities, including those with the most severe disabilities, are capable of self-determination, independence, productivity, integration, and inclusion in all facets of community life, with individualized community support.
- **You are a believer in the family** - you believe individuals with disabilities and their families have competencies, capabilities, and personal goals that will be recognized, supported, and encouraged. Additionally, individuals with disabilities and their families are the primary decision-makers regarding the services and support they receive.
- **You are experienced** - you have lived experience as a parent or guardian of a child with a disability. You are an individual with a disability or a professional in the disability field. Or you are an individual with experience in disability advocacy, law, medicine, marketing, insurance, investments, fundraising, or other areas that make a well-rounded board.
- **You are collaborative** - you value learning and working alongside a team, empowering others, to express their point of view, and fostering an environment of healthy communication.
- **You are reliable** - arriving on time, meeting deadlines, and following through on your commitments. You demonstrate responsibility and accountability for decision-making especially in team settings, celebrating when things have gone well and acknowledging when they've gone wrong.
- **You are forward-thinking** - you can scan the environment to anticipate the organization's future needs and provide solutions to challenges.
- **You are courageous** - you take a well-reasoned stand on important issues and work to resolve challenges when necessary. you encourage people to try new things, take appropriate risks, and deal constructively with failures and mistakes. You value doing what is right over what is easy.



- **You like making connections** - you are committed to being an ambassador for FHFofGNO in your community and helping us meet new families, professionals, and supporters.
- **You are open** - you bring your authentic self to your work and contribute to a positive, honest, safe, judgment-free environment.
- **You believe in the power of peer mentoring** - you are committed to the peer-to-peer model and the importance of parents and individuals with disabilities receiving support from others with similar experiences.
- **You are a self-advocate** - you speak up when you need assistance, ask questions when you don't understand, and make decisions that are best for the organization and disability community.
- **You are committed to diversity** - you understand the power of a diverse board and value each member lived experiences.
- **You are connected to technology** - you are comfortable using technology,
  - You are comfortable using programs like Zoom for board meetings;
  - You have an email account you check daily and can respond to when needed.
  - You will share FHFofGNO's social media posts.
- **You are philanthropic** - you understand philanthropy isn't about being rich but supporting your favorite cause. The most significant way to show your commitment to a nonprofit organization is by providing financial resources, regardless of the amount. Funders want to know that the Board of Directors is invested in the organization.

### Need more information?

For more information or questions, please contact Executive Director, Mary Jacob at: [mjacob@fhfogn.org](mailto:mjacob@fhfogn.org).

### Ready to Apply?

Fill out the online application at:  
<https://forms.gle/K671o8Pxud8auyKL7>

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