



Homelessness and Affordable Housing Forum Speakers



Rev. Janet L. Collinsworth, CPA, CFE – Agape Resource & Assistance Center

After 30 years in business and creating a successful CPA firm, Janet left the corporate world to serve the community. Using her experience in accounting and business as a CPA & Certified Fraud Examiner she has planted three successful non-profit ministries that continue to serve, help, empower and connect with our neighbors in need locally and internationally.

Janet obtained a bachelor's in accounting from Oklahoma State University and a Master of Theology from SMU Perkins School of Theology. She is an ordained Deacon in the United Methodist Church.

As Founder and CEO, Janet leads Agape to find solutions to poverty, homelessness, domestic violence, and human trafficking and disadvantaged children by calling all members in our communities, specifically communities of faith, to join together and meet the needs of our neighbors in need through servant ministry in Agape...in all its meanings.



David Gruber – Housing Forward

David Gruber is a native of Evanston, Illinois, and an eighth-generation rabbi. He grew up in Israel and served as a tank gunner in the Israel Defense Force Armored Corps.

He holds a B.A. in History from Thomas Edison State College, and an M.S. in Educational Leadership from Walden University. He was ordained as a rabbi by the Chief Rabbis of Israel.

Gruber has served in religious, educational, and communal leadership positions on three continents since his teens, specifically in Israel, New Zealand, and the United States.

In 2008, Gruber co-founded Interfaith Wedding Rabbi, and has since officiated about 600 weddings all over the world.

He is the Senior Director of Development and Communications for Housing Forward, the lead agency of Dallas and Collin Counties' homeless response system and is the longest serving employee in the history of the organization.

Gruber has been married to his wife, Liat, for over 30 years, and they are the proud parents of three adult children.



Dana Riley – Samaritan Inn

Dana K. Riley is the Donor Relations Manager for the Samaritan Inn. Her ability to connect with people makes her the perfect person to raise funds for the largest nonprofit homeless program in North Texas. She conducts tours of the facility and travels all over Collin County to inform audiences of the transformative work being done at the Samaritan Inn.

Her career has spanned over 30 years, and she has always worked in a nonprofit or government setting. She is known for her ability to tell a story and enjoys meeting new people and seeing things from other perspectives. She has a passion for service and it is obvious to all that meet her.

She has been married for 40 years to her high school sweetheart, and they have a married daughter, married son, and one grandson. She enjoys gardening, cooking, reading, crafts, and traveling.



Jill Scigliano – Samaritan Inn

Jill Scigliano is a dedicated and compassionate leader, serving as the Chief Executive Officer of The Samaritan Inn, offering support to those experiencing homelessness. With an unwavering commitment to service leadership and a proven track record of driving positive change, Jill is at the forefront of the organization's mission to provide shelter, resources, and opportunities for our neighbors needing extra support.

Jill's professional history includes various positions in social service organizations, from national organizations like the YMCA to intensive-care settings that provide in-home crisis therapy for youths and their families. Jill was previously the Chief Impact Officer at The United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, overseeing impact work in Education, Income, Health, and Basic Needs. She also served as the Executive Director of the Residential program at My Possibilities, helping those with intellectual and developmental disabilities to find permanent housing solutions. With a wide array of other nonprofit leadership positions, Jill brings a wealth of knowledge about the ever-changing community needs in North Texas.

She has experience in person-centered design, and being part of community-wide, collaborative, collective impact efforts across various North Texas communities. Her direct experience with front-line service, program implementation, operations, fundraising, and community outreach has sharpened her ability to navigate the complex challenges of homelessness with a strategic and compassionate approach.

Jill holds deeply the belief that homelessness is a growing, but solvable crisis. As a child, she experienced homelessness, with her family relying upon the generosity of her extended family for stability and shelter. Her commitment to maintaining a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment where people can feel valued reflects this passion. As Collin County has grown, Jill stays focused on working collaboratively with those facing homelessness, local government agencies, businesses, churches, and civic organizations to forge partnerships that foster real change. Only through true partnership and empathy can our community commit to resolving the homelessness crisis together.



James Thomas – Plano ISD

As a product of Plano, Texas, James Thomas graduated from Plano ISD and received his degree from Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas. After residing and teaching in Bay City, Texas for a year, he returned home to Plano where he has worked for the district for over forty plus years. During his tenure as an ISD employee, James worked as an English teacher, coach, dean of students, Coordinator of discipline in Plano ISD and summer school coordinator. For the past twelve years, he has been the homeless liaison for Plano ISD. As a McKinney Vento liaison for the district, James finds himself with an amazing opportunity to provide resources to families who have encountered difficult life situations. This role has also provided him with an opportunity to give back to the same community that has been so integral to his life. James and his wife, Shun, have 4 young men (JT, Chase, Trevor and Chris) who all reside in the Dallas area.



Cristel Todd - City of McKinney

Cristel Todd is the Housing Services Administrator under the Housing and Community Development Department. She is responsible for the oversight and administration of multiple housing programs that benefit predominately low-to-moderate income eligible individuals and households including the First-time homebuyers' program, Tenant Based Rental Assistance, Housing Rehabilitation, Property Maintenance Program, Mortgage Credit Certificate Program, the city's annual Point-in-Time Homeless Count and the Lot Acquisition program. With 20 years' experience, she is an industry professional who also serves as liaison to the McKinney Housing Finance Corporation, instrumental in the distribution of over \$100M in

revenue bonds toward the construction of multi-family public-private partnerships with the McKinney Housing Authority, TDHCA, McKinney Community Development Corporation, and many others. This is crucial in closing the housing affordability gap with the creation of over 1000 units of affordable housing in the City of McKinney.