

Kathleen Macias-Torres, MPA

Transformative & Strategic Leader –Non-Profit Executive

"Supporting and providing resources to improve the lives of people in the community especially the underserved population is my passion".

Kathleen currently serves as the Executive Director of SPARC, Inc. a grassroots nonprofit organization in Westchester County that provides recreational and therapeutic services to people of all ages with development disabilities. She was appointed to the position in May of 2019 and has been successfully leading the organization through a time of challenges in a global pandemic. Under her leadership, Kathleen improved organizational efficiency, established programs to expand services to underserved areas and secured an additional \$200,000 of funding from key business partners.

Prior to her position at SPARC, Kathleen was the Associate Executive Director for Community Resource Center for the Developmentally Disabled, Inc., a nonprofit providing residential services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Kathleen's role was to oversee operations, finance, human resource, social services, quality assurance and the case management department.

As an innovate leader for over 25 years, Kathleen has been instrumental in developing training resources with a focus on diversity and starting up an inclusive day care center in New York City that would serve children with disabilities.

Kathleen has volunteered for organizations that are focused on providing resources to underserved communities, support people with disabilities and empower women. From 2013 to 2019, she served as Board Member and Secretary for Sterling House Community Center and for Preston Compassion of Care, Inc. Currently, Kathleen volunteers for the Women's Empowerment Institute where she mentors and empowers young women seeking career advancement. She is also actively involved with the Disabilities Committee for Nonprofit Westchester and a member of the United Way's Nonprofit Leadership Summit Committee.

In 2010, Kathleen was recognized for her achievement and commitment to families of children with Autism by Bronx Angels, Inc. and received the "Distinguished Leader" 2012 Award from Allcare Provider Services. She has been selected to receive the 2021 Above and Beyond Award at the WEI, "I am" Virtual Empowerment Conference on October 14, 2021.

Kathleen earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Boston University and a master's degree in public administration from the University of New Haven. She also completed a Certificate in Human Resource Management.

Kathleen lives with her husband of 17 years and her two children. She currently resides in Shrub Oak, New York.