

## MetLife City Leaders Institute on Aging In Place \* Greater Phoenix Region Team Roster



**Michelle Dionisio**, President, Benevilla

Bio: Michelle Dionisio has worked in the private and public sector for more than 32 years with direct experience administrating home and community based services, as well as working to build Communities for All Ages. Her experiences include developing, planning, and implementing intergenerational community projects, senior programs such as Adult Day Health Care (ADHC), Care Management, and Home Services. Ms. Dionisio served as a delegate to the White House conference on aging and was part of an American Delegation to China to study the economic and social concerns of the elderly. She also served as a delegate to the National Institute on Community-Based Long Term Care. Ms. Dionisio joined Benevilla (formerly Interfaith Community Care), a not for profit human service organization, as a Program Director in 1990, and has served as its President since

September 2000.



**Cindy Ensign**, Planner/Budget Specialist - Human Services Department, City of Scottsdale

Bio: Cindy Ensign is an Arizona Native and has lived in Scottsdale most of her life. She received a bachelor's degree of Science in Accounting from Arizona State University and is an Arizona Licensed Certified Public Accountant. She has 13 years of government work experience in the areas of budgeting, data analysis, accounting, forecasting and human services planning. She has participated on many special project teams, prepares the annual Human Services Performance report, and participates as the annual Request for Proposal process team.



**Mary Lynn Kasunic, M.S., CPM**, President and CEO, Area Agency on Aging, Region One

Bio: Mary Lynn Kasunic, President & CEO and Executive Director of the Area Agency on Aging, Region One since 1990, has developed many innovative programs to address unmet needs, such as ElderVention<sup>®</sup>, DOVES<sup>®</sup>, ageWORKS<sup>®</sup>, and HIV Care Directions<sup>®</sup>. In 1993, she co-founded and currently co-chairs the Maricopa Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance. Ms. Kasunic serves on the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women and Children and has served on the National Committee for Prevention of Elder Abuse board for more than 10 years. She has received an Excellence in Leadership award from n4a and a Piper Fellowship for exemplary nonprofit leadership.



**Carol Kratz**, Program officer, Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust

Bio: As a Program Director for Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, Carol Kratz works with the Board of Trustees to evaluate proposals in the areas of older adults and arts and culture. She is also responsible for reviewing grant proposals, meeting with potential grantees, and visiting nonprofit locations. Previously, Ms. Kratz worked for the Maricopa Association of Governments in accommodating the human services needs of children, families, older adults and people with disabilities. She holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs and a bachelor's degree in political science from Chatham College in Pittsburgh. She served on the Board of Directors of Grantmakers in Aging and was a member of the Leadership Council of the National Council on Aging.



**Joe E. La Rue**, President and CEO, Sun Health Senior Living

Bio: Joe La Rue is responsible for providing strategic oversight to all three senior living communities as well as several real estate and property interests owned by Sun Health. Before joining Sun Health, Mr. La Rue practiced law for 16 years in the Sun Cities area with an emphasis in real estate finance and development. After receiving his bachelor's degree in business in 1985, he earned his juris doctorate from the Arizona State University College of Law in 1988. Mr. La Rue is a member of the State Transportation Board. He also is a member of the Arizona Town Hall Board of Directors and the WESTMARC Board of Directors. Previously, he served a four-year term on the Peoria City Council from 1997-2001.



**Amy St. Peter**, M.P.A., Human Services and Special Projects Manager, Maricopa Association of Governments

Bio: Amy St. Peter is the Human Services and Special Projects Manager for the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) in Phoenix, Arizona. In this position, she oversees regional human services planning and more than \$30 million in funding for one of the fastest growing regions in the country. She has worked in the human services field for more than 17 years. Ms. St. Peter earned a Master of Public Administration degree from Arizona State University in 2004 and graduated cum laude with a Bachelor degree in Sociology and Writing from Loyola College in 1994.



**Greg Stanton, Mayor, City of Phoenix**

Bio: Mayor Greg Stanton was raised in West Phoenix by a family committed to giving back to their community. His dad, Fred, rode the city bus to his job as a shoe salesman and his mom, Mary Ann, was a devoted educator. The Stantons instilled in their children the importance of giving to others, and in that spirit they founded the Christian Needs Network, a group of multi-faith volunteers who collected clothes, food and diapers for members of their community in need.

Following high school, Mayor Stanton attended Marquette University and earned the Harry S. Truman Scholarship, a national award for students committed to pursuing careers in public service. While at Marquette, he and a classmate founded an after-school program at the Downtown Milwaukee YMCA helping fourth and fifth grade students with homework and basketball. He also was awarded a grant from the Milwaukee Foundation to study inner city hidden unemployment.

After earning his law degree from the University of Michigan, Mayor Stanton returned to Phoenix where he practiced education law at Jennings Strouss & Salmon and later Quarles & Brady LLP. In 2001, he left private law practice to serve on the Phoenix City Council, where he represented the sixth district for nine years. This district includes the Biltmore, Ahwatukee Foothills, Arcadia and North Central neighborhoods. With a staunch commitment to creating high-wage jobs in Phoenix, Mayor Stanton was the lead councilman bringing the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen), the Arizona State University downtown campus and the University of Arizona medical school to the city.

In 2009, Mayor Stanton joined the state Attorney General's office as Deputy Attorney General, where he helped lead the effort to stop funding of cartels who traffic people and drugs across the southern border. He worked to protect consumers and homeowners by fighting the predatory payday lending industry, and focused on eliminating mortgage fraud. He also negotiated the settlement between the State of Arizona and Maricopa County to protect the future vitality of Luke Air Force Base, a \$2billion a year economic asset.

Mayor Stanton and his wife Nicole have two young children, Trevor and Violet. Nicole Stanton is a prominent local attorney who recently received the YWCA business leadership award. Mayor Stanton will work to make Phoenix a city that his children – and all children – can be proud to call home. A city with strong schools, safe parks and neighborhoods, a vibrant arts community, and an environment that supports locally owned businesses, diverse industries and high-wage jobs.