



Lizz Helmsen

Managing Director

Lizz Helmsen joined Carter with 17 years of fundraising experience with a particular focus in the arts, education, and community service. She is known as a creative and energetic professional with a proven ability to build relationships with, and create connections among, multiple constituencies.

Lizz has directed comprehensive fundraising programs and provides expertise in the areas of campaign counsel, major gifts, development planning, annual giving and grant making.

Board Membership

Lizz is an active member of the Advisory Board of the Bayer Center for Nonprofit Management at Robert Morris University and volunteers for the Hotspurs Soccer Club, SCS United Soccer Club, and PA West Soccer Association. She has previously served on the Board of Directors for the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh and on the planning committee for the Association of Fundraising Professionals' annual Fundraising Day.

Client Experience

Prior to joining Carter, Lizz was an independent consultant working with the Animal Rescue League & Wildlife Center of Western Pennsylvania. She directed the largest capital campaign in the organization's history to build a new, state-of-the-art animal resource center. Lizz began her fundraising career at the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre before spending ten years with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. During her tenure with the PSO, she led individual and corporate development programs; coordinated joint economic development activities between the PSO and the Allegheny Conference on Community Development and the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance; and created comprehensive fundraising programs to support the PSO's multiple satellite series. As a result of her leadership style and collaborative approach, Lizz was chosen to serve as a liaison for numerous committees with the Board of Trustees. She is also

credited with developing several innovative donor development and stewardship initiatives including the highly successful Musicians' Challenge and Patron Appreciation Month.

Personal

Lizz has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Drama Design from Carnegie Mellon University and a Master of Arts in Teaching, Secondary English, from the University of Pittsburgh. She and her husband, Eric, have two sons and one crazy dog.