



Investing in Youth Today, Improving Conditions Tomorrow

## 2012 Staff Biographies

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### **John Brandon, MS**

President/Executive Director, MCCOY, Inc.

MCCOY's President has over 30 years experience in the youth development field as a youth worker, counselor, caseworker, trainer, and agency executive. He holds a BA in History, a MDiv. in Theology, and a MS in Marital and Family Therapy. He has guided numerous community planning projects and initiatives in the youth development arena during his career and serves on a variety of community boards and committees. He is a certified trainer in the Advancing Youth Development curriculum; a trained facilitator for the Sustainability Planning Process, and a member of numerous community task forces and committees. John is responsible for overall agency management, staff development, strategic planning, partnership and relationship building, and fund development.

### **Stephanie Freeman, MPA**

Communications Director

Stephanie joined the MCCOY team as Communications Director in 2010. She comes to MCCOY with more than four years of experience in non-profit fundraising, volunteer management, event-planning and communications. She has a BS in Public Relations from Ball State University and a Masters of Public Affairs at Indiana University-Purdue University of Indianapolis. Stephanie has been very involved with the local community and belongs to the Indianapolis Association of Fundraising Professionals, Hoosier Public Relations Society of America, Junior League of Indianapolis, United Way's Emerging Leaders, and the Alpha Omicron Pi Alumni Association. While at MCCOY, she will support the success of our initiatives and mission through building community awareness around key youth issues. Stephanie will create campaigns to engage the local youth, nonprofit and business community to take action around the issues of Early Intervention & Prevention and Drop-out Prevention.

### **Mindi Goodpaster, MSW**

Director, Public Policy & Advocacy

Ms. Goodpaster directs public policy and advocacy activities for the Marion County Commission on Youth, Inc. (MCCOY). She has over 15 years of experience in youth violence prevention, child advocacy, child welfare and social marketing. Prior to moving to Indianapolis in 2007, Ms. Goodpaster began her career in child welfare in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and then spent 11 years in Washington, DC where she relocated for graduate school. She completed a graduate internship in the office of Senator Arlen Specter (D-PA) during which she acquired direct experience in the federal legislative process and gained subsequent experience as a program director and youth advocate in Montgomery County, Maryland. She possesses an MSW with a concentration in Social Policy, Planning and Administration from The Catholic University of America's National Catholic School of Social Service and a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania.



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**Nazeeha Khalid, MSP**

Training Director

Nazeeha Khalid has worked with youth of for over 10 years in many different capacities. She has extensive experience in the fields of education, social services, and cognitive skills assessment and training. She has served as a GED instructor for Marian University, served as the Director of Training for Learning Rx, served as a youth development professional at Forest Manor and MLK Community Centers, Boys and Girls Clubs, as well as “Daddy’s house” (a social services agency in New York City). In her spare time, Naz works as a volunteer, a teacher, and mentor to youth. She strives to help them build self esteem, develop self efficacy, and engage creativity. Naz has a Master's in Social Psychology from Walden University and B.A. in Communications from Indiana University Bloomington. Nazeeha has been trained in the Youth Quality Program Assessment (YPQA) Methods and will continue to build the Youth Worker Learning Network and our efforts to increase youth program quality utilizing the YPQA process.

**Shanna Martin, MSW**

Director, Early Intervention & Prevention

Shanna has nearly 15 years of experience working directly with children, youths, and families involved in the child welfare, juvenile justice, educational, and mental health systems. Shanna’s work history has included youth worker for a residential facility, counselor for one of Indiana’s juvenile correctional facilities, foster care and adoption worker in North Carolina, Director of Adoptions in North Carolina, and as the social worker for YouthBuild Indy, serving young adults ages 18-24. Shanna is the Director of the Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP) Initiative. This entailed forming and convening a steering committee of service providers, referral sources and other community partners to develop a strategic plan and lead implementation efforts to guide EIP efforts through 2013. She will also develop and nurture strategic relationships with service providers to improve coordination and delivery of services while increasing community awareness of programs that support and promote healthy and stable families. Shanna has a Bachelor’s of Arts in Sociology and Anthropology from DePauw University and a Master’s of Social Work from the University of Michigan.

**Jim Wark**

Chief Financial Operator/Chief Development Officer

Jim Wark joined MCCOY in 2007 following a 25 year career in commercial banking and small business. Jim graduated from Indiana University with a B.S. in Management. Jim focuses on finance, budgeting, management reporting and accounting to assure that MCCOY provides good stewardship to our various funding sources. He serves as a member of the development team, especially focused on corporate giving and sponsorships. Jim serves on the board of Dance Kaleidoscope and the finance committee of Dress for Success.