

Julia Bolz, Founder and Executive Director, Anyi International

Julia Bolz is a nationally-recognized social justice activist. An international lawyer by profession, she traded in a successful career to serve people in the world's most impoverished regions. In 2002 she founded a grassroots project called "Journey with an Afghan School," which, over the years, grew into a nongovernmental organization, called Anyi Education International. With funds raised by communities across America, Julia and her colleagues have built and repaired dozens of schools, serving some 25,000 Afghan students. In addition, they are working to strengthen the Afghan school system by equipping schools, providing teacher training, setting up libraries and computer centers, and developing parent teacher organizations. Their mission is to empower Afghans, so they can build just, sustainable and life-affirming communities.

Julia not only seeks to build schools but bridges of understanding between the United States and Afghanistan. Uniquely, 50,000 Americans are "journeying" with her and her colleagues, including students, book clubs, various religious and civic organizations, foundations, Rotary, and National Geographic. Not only have these groups participated in cultural exchanges and cross-cultural curricula, but several community members have joined her in Afghanistan. Julia's mantra is to "engage, educate, empower and inspire."

A powerful voice for women and children, Julia regularly speaks around the country, writes about her experiences, and meets with political decision-makers. She has received several national awards for her civic engagement, leadership, and passionate citizenship.

Charles Brennick, Founder & Director, InterConnections

Charles has had a life-long personal and professional interest in technology, environmental education and community planning. This unique combination of interests and experience led Charles to create InterConnection in 1999. Prior to founding InterConnection, Charles worked as both a web developer and ecotourism planner in Costa Rica. Before that, he spent over two years as an environmental education teacher with the Peace Corps in Paraguay. Charles received a Masters degree in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Oregon.

David Eller, President, World Concern

David Eller has been the President of World Concern since September 2007. He served as International Operations Director of the organization for more than a year prior the appointment. As World Concern's leader, his primary goals for the organization include beneficiary self sustainability, program excellence, and spiritual impact with sustainability.

He joined World Concern in 2001, leaving a successful 18 year career in business to answer a call to serve the poor in international Christian relief and development. He started as the program manager in charge of Microfinance Programs in Kenya. During the four years living in Kenya serving with World Concern, David played a key role in the development and management of programs in Kenya, Rwanda, Haiti and Zambia.

The Eller family – which includes David's wife Melissa and children Andrew, Angela, Amy and Ashley – returned to the United States in 2005, when David became the manager of World Concern's HIV/AIDS programs around the world. Under his leadership, the project's reach has expanded from community care of orphans and vulnerable children to education, prevention, and palliative care for the sick.

In 2007, David earned a Masters of Public Administration from the University of Washington. He obtained his bachelor's degree in business there in 1983.

Diana Fletschner, Gender Expert & Director of Research, Landesa (formerly Rural Development Institute, RDI)

Diana is a development economist with over 15 years of experience teaching, doing research, designing programs and tools, and monitoring and evaluating interventions with a special focus on rural women. She has done extensive research on how behavioral attributes, intrahousehold dynamics, and social conditions shape rural women's access to productive assets and the economic choices they make. More specifically, Diana has examined factors that affect whether rural women engage in economic activities that, while expected to offer higher returns, can be riskier, take place in a competitive environment, conflict with their husbands' preferences, or contravene well-established norms of behavior. She has also assessed the loss of economic efficiency associated with women's constraints.

She is currently involved in a broad range of projects on women's access and rights over land. Diana is leading quantitative research and field-informed desk research to gauge the impact of joint titling efforts, to better understand how women are affected by large land takings, and to assess rural women's access and rights to land in China. She is part of a team responsible for assessing the

effectiveness of innovative approaches to secure women's and girls' rights to land piloted in Northern Uganda and West Bengal. She is involved in developing land and property rights tools that pay attention to women's preferences and constraints. And, she is the Director of the Women's Land Rights Fellowship Program, an initiative to create a network of skilled and committed professionals working to secure women's land rights around the world.

Diana has done research and worked with NGOs in China, Colombia, India, Paraguay, Peru, Nicaragua, Russia, Uganda, Vietnam, and the US. She is the author of *"Rural Women's Access to Capital: Intrahousehold Bargaining and Social Effects"* and her work has been published by the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Journal of Socio-Economics*, *World Development*, *Journal of Development Studies*, *Revista Paraguaya de Sociología* and *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*.

Diana holds a Ph.D. in agricultural and applied economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she was a MacArthur-Global Studies Fellow and received the Taylor Hibbard Doctoral Dissertation Award. She also holds summa cum laude BAs in economics and in computer science from the Universidad Nacional de Asunción-Paraguay. Diana has been an Assistant Professor at the University of Washington's Evans School of Public Affairs and has taught courses on economics, international development, quantitative methods, gender and development, and computer science at the University of Washington, University of Wisconsin, Universidad Nacional de Asunción-Paraguay, and Universidad Católica Nuestra Señora de la Asunción.

In addition, she has collaborated with, evaluated, and directed programs that bring mid-career professionals from developing countries and economies in transition for one-year fellowships at the University of Washington. She has been a board member of the Foundation for International Understanding Through Students (FIUTS) and has served as a member of the Oversight Committee for the Nicaraguan Credit Alternatives Fund (NICA Fund) at Working Capital for Community Needs, an organization now working in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. She received the Evans Students' Mentoring Award in 2008 and the University of Wisconsin's Graduate Student Mentor Award in 2001.

Bookda Gheisar, Executive Director, Global Washington

Bookda Gheisar joined Global Washington in the summer of 2008. Bookda has lived in Seattle since 1986 and has 22 years of experience working in the non-profit sector in the state of Washington.

Before coming to Global Washington, Bookda was Executive Director of the Social Justice Fund (2000-2008), where her work was dedicated to addressing the root causes of social, economic, and environmental inequities through strategic grantmaking efforts to community-based organizations in the Northwest. Before this, Bookda was the Executive Director of Cross Cultural Health Care Program (1993-2000) whose mission is to help ensure underserved communities full access to quality health care that is culturally and linguistically appropriate.

Between 1995 and 2000 Bookda taught at University of Washington School of Social Work, Antioch University, and Bastyr University as adjunct faculty.

In 2007 Bookda received the Bill Grace Leadership Legacy Award from The Center for Ethical Leadership. In 2006, she was recognized by the YWCA and ACT Theater of Seattle in the list of "Seattle Women to Celebrate", as well as being recognized by Seattle Weekly News, Best of Seattle Edition: Best Grassroots Philanthropist.

Cindy Nofziger, Founder and Executive Director, School for Salone

Cindy Nofziger served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Sierra Leone from 1985 -1987 working as a physical therapist at Masanga Leprosy Hospital. Cindy began Schools for Salone after returning to Sierra Leone in 2004, where she was asked by former friends and colleagues at Masanga Hospital to help fill a desperate need in the country. She has 25 years of experience in health care, education, and project development. She holds graduate degrees in Physical Therapy from Boston University and Health Administration from the University of Washington, Seattle. Cindy also serves on the board of Friends of Sierra Leone.

Samantha Rayner, Founder and Executive Director, Lumana

Sammie Rayner, a 24 year old graduate from the University of Washington implemented a pilot micro-credit program for Lumana Credit in 2008 in rural Ghana West Africa and has been lead organizer for the organization's strategic expansion since. In just two years, Sammie has expanded the US team to 15 active members, hired 7 part time and one full time employee in Ghana, raised the loan funds for Lumana's 250 existing clients and developed strong relationships with several local and international partners.

Jacqueline Sherris, PhD, Vice President, Global Programs

Dr. Sherris oversees PATH's global programs and facilitates articulation of program strategies, fosters program collaboration and synergy, models management and performance leadership, and ensures effective program planning, evaluation, and impact assessment across the organization. Dr. Sherris also serves on PATH's Executive Leadership Team and represents PATH domestically and internationally.

Dr. Sherris has more than 20 years of experience in public health. From 2002 to 2007, she served as PATH's program leader for the Reproductive Health Strategic Program, through which she led and expanded PATH's cervical cancer prevention work, including efforts to increase access to human papillomavirus vaccines in developing countries. Other areas of reproductive health work that grew under her leadership include contraceptive supply security, pharmacists and reproductive health, technologies and interventions for women dealing with the consequences of unprotected sex, and integration of family planning and HIV and AIDS services. Prior to taking on the reproductive health program leader responsibilities, she led various reproductive health projects and programs at PATH.

Before joining PATH in 1987, Dr. Sherris coordinated the University of Washington's Academic Programs for Teachers and was a staff associate with the Population Information Program at The Johns Hopkins University, where she authored several issues of *Population Reports*.

A frequent author on international health, women's health, and cervical cancer prevention in the developing world, she is an affiliate faculty member at the University of Washington's School of Public Health and Community Medicine and serves on the External Advisory Board of that school.

Dr. Sherris received her MS in biology and her PhD in science education from Purdue University.