

Executive Director Expertise, Credentials, and Responsibility

Glenn P. Kendall, Ph.D., Founder and Executive Director of the Board of Directors for Youthaven Public Ecovillage...



Glenn Kendall, Ph.D. is the Founder and Executive Director of Youthaven Public Ecovillage. He has over forty years of experience managing and administering youth, residential, evaluation, drug treatment, and management services for the children and young adults living in the inner-city neighborhoods of New York City, and later in Morristown, New Jersey. He has been a founding board member on several boards including the Morristown Unity Charter School for Sustainability and Maple Leaf Public Ecovillage. Presently he volunteers at ProKids as a Court Appointed Special Advocate. In addition, Kendall attended four graduate schools qualifying for one Master's Degree from Teachers College, Columbia University while earning three degrees: a Master's Degree from Cambridge College in the area of Humane Education, a Master's Degree from Drew University in Theological Studies, and a Ph.D. from Union Institute & University in the field of Public Policy and Social Change concentrating on improving Youth Group Homes. Dr. Kendall was a nominee for the Marvin B. Sussman Doctoral Award. A fuller discussion of Kendall's qualifications is in the appendix.

Eppechal T. Smalls, E.D., is a Co-founder and Chair of the Board of Directors for Youthaven Public Ecovillage...



Eppechal T. Smalls, Ed.D., is a seasoned professional with over 18 years of experience in Higher Education & Philanthropy. Smalls received his Doctorate in Higher Educational Leadership from the Union Institute & University of Cincinnati in 2015. Smalls has served in two senior level position since 2010, Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Hiwassee College in Madisonville, TN and Vice President for Development at Wilberforce University in Wilberforce, OH. Where he was successful in designing, planning, and leading the fundraising and marketing infrastructure.

From 2008 – 2010, Smalls served at Tennessee State University as the Associate Vice President for Major Gifts & Planned Giving where he built and implemented a robust major gifts/planned giving program that produced over \$8 Million in assets in less than three years. He also co-chaired and assisted in designing

TSU's first Assessment Council geared at managing the entire University assessment program.

Carmela Laya, M.Ed., is a Co-founder and Co-chair of the Board of Directors for Youthaven Public Ecovillage...



Education has always been my passion. I believe that every child can learn. I think we must provide the necessary environment, tools, and skills for all children to feel and be successful, despite their circumstances or backgrounds. My name is Carmela Laya; I am an Intermediate Special Education teacher in a Self-Contained classroom. I work specifically with students with disabilities, including high to low functioning Autism, Occupational Defiant Disorder (ODD), Attention Hyperactivity Deficit Disorder (ADHD/ADD), Emotionally Disturbed, and students with moderate cognitive and motor functions. I have a Master's in Early Childhood Special Education and a strong background in early childhood development. I also have a dual certification in general education for children Birth to 6th grade in both Washington and New York state.

Juanita Johnson, M.A. is a Co-founder and Treasurer of the Board of Directors for Youthaven Public Ecovillage...

Juanita Johnson resides in Cincinnati, Ohio graduated, with a UI&U bachelor's degree in human services administration in 2002 and earned a Master's in Public Administration from Antioch-McGregor in 2007. She also completed some doctoral work in Public Policy & Administration at Walden University from 2009-2011. Her academic interest lies in civic participation and deliberation, program development and assessment, institutional governance, and local and national education issues.

While Juanita has many years of experience in various business and community service related roles, she remains committed to institutional, and community service work with measurable impact in helping organizations and individuals. She continues to promote knowledge and understanding of academic opportunities, and preparation for academic success. Juanita continues to serve on several community boards and continues to advocate for services and programs for women, children, and the population of high school students whose needs for resources and support remain unmet. Juanita has continued to demonstrate a nurturing characteristic in her work with local organizations and residents.

Naeemah Smith, B.A., is a Co-founder and Secretary of the Board of Directors for Youthaven Public Ecovillage...



Lisa Newton, Ph.D., is a Co-founder of the Board of Directors for Youthaven Public Ecovillage...



Dr. Lisa Newton, as a Social Scientist loves using group conversations and artistic productions to encourage self awareness, mental and physical healing, resiliency, and individual and collective economic growth. Often regarded as a Social Butterfly and a self-proclaimed Teacher of Leaders, Dr. Newton uses historical facts and academic information to synthesize new knowledge and social cultural awareness to help improve the lives of others. Dr. Newton is the author and producer of the musical “Butterflies Don't Just Fly, They Soar!” and author of the self-help book “Pieces of Me”.

Mary Wilby, Ph.D. is a Co-founder Board member of the Board of Directors for Youthaven Public Ecovillage...



Mary Wilby is a Nurse Practitioner with 40 years of experience in healthcare. She specializes in Primary Care, especially for those marginalized in our society. Dr. Wilby holds Master of Science in Nursing and Master of Public Health degrees from La Salle University in Philadelphia, PA and a PhD from Union Institute and University in Cincinnati, OH. She is a faculty member in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences at La Salle University where she directs the Nurse Practitioner Programs. Her work in Public Health focuses in two major areas; access to care and health promotion for people with disabilities and raising awareness among health care professionals to increase identification and support for victims of human trafficking. Dr. Wilby also has advanced training in energy medicine from the Four Winds Society as well as other holistic healing modalities.

Dan Whorton, B.A., is a Co-founder Urban Farmer of the Board of Directors for Youthaven Public Ecovillage...

Mati Alamirew, 2020 Candidate, University of Cincinnati, a Co-founding Board Member of Youthaven Public Ecovillage

Jay Hicks is a Co-founder of the Board of Directors for Youthaven Public Ecovillage...



Daniel Simmons, MPH Candidate, Xavier College, is a Co-founder of the Board of Directors for Youthaven Public Ecovillage...