

Kathleen Desmond MSW, President



Kathleen Desmond, President of HopePHL™ is a housing, homelessness and child welfare expert with more than 30 years of experience in the non-profit sector. Kathy was most recently President of People's Emergency Center, the predecessor to HopePHL.™ She previously served as the CEO at Best Nest, Inc. She has a Master's of Social Work from Temple University, School of Social Administration. Kathleen brings compassion, dedication, and a strategic vision for positive impact for the people and neighborhoods that HopePHL and its subsidiaries serve to her work.

Kathleen led the agency through the merger and the COVID-19 pandemic. She facilitated the creation of new programs critical to empowering families, children and communities including homelessness prevention, early childhood education, support for students and youth experiencing homelessness, and young adults aging out of foster care.

Kathleen presided over the development of 20 units of housing for low-income artists, which opened in 2017. She led the development of 43 units of affordable

housing opening in 2025. She secured \$6.4 million in funding for the upcoming renovation of 81 units of transitional and supportive housing.

As a child welfare professional, Kathleen was instrumental in helping the Department of Public Welfare Office of Medical Assistance develop the system by which they define and pay for medical foster care services in the state of Pennsylvania. She served on the Pennsylvania CAPTA (Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act) committee to promote the deinstitutionalization of children with special medical needs.

Kathleen has been an active member of the Philadelphia community, serving on boards and committees throughout the city. She served as a member of the Roadmaps to Homes Board, which establishes local priorities for system planning and to evaluate system-wide performance towards making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring, for six years. She served as a member of the governance and executive committee.

She is also secretary of the board of Together for West Philadelphia (T4WP). T4WP partners with health care systems, community-based organizations, academic institutions, and public and private stakeholders to achieve equitable health outcomes for West Philadelphians.