

Kathleen Desmond MSW, President



Kathleen Desmond, President of HopePHL™ is a child welfare and social work expert with 30 years of experience in the non-profit sector. She has a Master's of Social Work from Temple University, School of Social Administration. Kathy was most recently President of People's Emergency Center, the predecessor to HopePHL™. She previously worked at Best Nest, Inc. for 25 years and served as the CEO for 14 of those years. Kathleen brings to all of her work compassion, dedication, and a strategic vision for positive impact for the people and neighborhoods that HopePHL and its subsidiaries serve.

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. In 1994, Kathleen was one of a small group of Child Welfare delegates chosen to represent the United States on a trip to Russia through the People to People Ambassador Program.

Kathleen has been an active member of the Philadelphia community, serving on boards and committees throughout the city. She is 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. She serves 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.