

The Advocacy Center welcomes seven new members to its Board of Directors.

William Belec is a Vice President at Visiting Nurse Service of Rochester and Project Director at University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. A resident of Rochester, he volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, and Corn Hill Neighbors Association and serves on the Board of Directors for Finger Lakes Visiting Nurse Service.



Don Eaton is a commercial Risk Manager at The Reagan Companies. A resident of Fairport, he is a past director for Rotary Camp Haccamo as well as an active member at First Congregational Church and The Rochester Business Council. As the father of a nine year old with autism, he has felt fortunate to be surrounded by caring and competent people and wants to be a part of helping other families advocate for their loved ones.

James Highsmith Jr. is a jazz musician who grew up in Rochester, attending School of the Arts and the Eastman School of Music. His community activities include North East Area Development and Rochester Fatherhood Resource Initiative. A favorite on the local jazz scene, his honors include the FCD Duke Ellington Hall of Fame for Musical Genius.



Manasi Kadam Ladrigan, MD, completed her training as a Pediatrician and is currently pursuing extra training in Dermatology. She resides in Rochester with her husband and super cute 2 year old boy with developmental disabilities.

Tabita Torres Rodriguez is a Campaign Associate at United Way of Greater Rochester. She is a member of the St. John Fisher College Alumni Board of Directors and the Monroe County-City of Rochester Youth Bureau Advisory Board. She lives in Rochester.



Shaun Speicher is Premier Client Director at AT&T. He brings with him the experience of parenting a child with special needs. A resident of Webster, he has volunteered for Special Olympics and has worked on the United Way campaign.

Lisa Stephenson is Director of Cultural Programming and Best Practices at The Highlands at Pittsford. A resident of Penfield, she is a graduate of the Master of Public Administration program at SUNY Brockport.

