

## STANDUP FOR KIDS Advisory Board

### Melissa Costello

VP Area Manager, Umpqua Bank



Melissa is a banking professional with over 25 years in the Financial Services industry. 9 plus years of diverse experience as an Area Manager at Umpqua

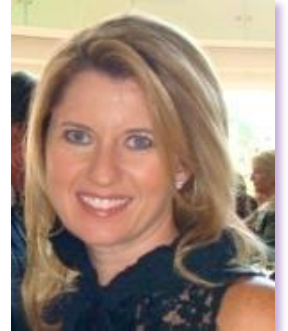
Bank overseeing affluent, LMI, de novo, commercial banking center branches in a California, Nevada and Illinois.

Melissa earned her Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice at Cal State Long Beach.

Melissa has been an Advisory board member since November 2017.

### Trish Coury, Member

Real Estate Professional



A real estate professional since 1997, Trish has committed herself to providing her clients with the highest quality service possible. Her goal of matching people to property is achieved through hard work, determination and dedication.

Originally from Arizona, Trish attended the University of Southern California and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing and also has a Master's degree in Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix.

Trish's community involvement includes: St. Jude Children's Hospital, Event Chair; Children's Bureau Board of Directors; ACT! (Autism Care and Treatment) Board of Directors; Susan G. Komen Foundation (former) Event Chair; Pacific Club Member and University of Southern California, Alumni Association.

## Emily Fuentes

Director of Communications, Open Doors USA

Emily holds a Master's degree in higher education and higher education administration from Northwest Missouri State University. She's a Non-Profit leader with nearly 12 years' experience in digital and offline marketing/communications, strategic management, education and public relations.



Emily is passionate about leading others in their strengths to make productivity and organizational functions more efficient. She's experienced in establishing goals, implementing effective work processes and building key relationships to drive business growth.

Emily currently works as the Director of Communications for Open Doors USA and has been an Advisory member with StandUp For Kids since April 2017.

## Dr. Nishant Kumar, Chairman

Psychiatrist, Private Practice

Dr. Nishant Kumar is a Board Certified General Psychiatrist qualified in Addiction Psychiatry. Dr. Nishant Kumar attended the University of California, Los Angeles where he graduated with a degree in psychobiology and economics. He then went on to pursue his medical training at Western University of Health Sciences - College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific in Pomona, California, graduating with a D.O. degree. He has extensive experience working with both outpatients and inpatients in treating substance abuse disorders, eating disorders and various other psychiatric disorders. In addition to his clinical skills, he is actively involved in addiction related research and is currently a Principal Investigator for Friends Research Institute in Torrance, California.



Dr. Nishant Kumar enjoys working with diverse populations, including underprivileged adults and adolescents struggling with various psychiatric and substance abuse issues. Dr. Nishant Kumar has volunteered his time with the Psychological Trauma Center to educate at-risk high school students about the harmful effects of alcohol and various substances.

Dr. Nishant Kumar has a deep understanding of the various challenges faced by today's diverse communities and attempts to bring this insight into every aspect of his clinical practice.

## Dr. Anna McCarthy

Clinical Psychologist, Private Practice



Dr. Anna McCarthy completed Master's in psychology at California State University Long Beach. Dr. McCarthy completed her PhD in

clinical psychology at the University of Houston.

While in Houston, Dr. McCarthy engaged in clinical training at Texas Children's Hospital, Baylor Medical School and MD Anderson Cancer Center. She went on to complete her pre-doctoral internship and post-doctoral fellowship at the VA Long Beach Healthcare System, where she worked with veterans presenting with a wide range of mental health issues, including PTSD, depression, severe mental illness, addiction, dual diagnoses, and personality disorders.

Dr. McCarthy has extensive experience working with victims of trauma (childhood, interpersonal, sexual, combat, natural disasters, etc.) and has worked in residential and outpatient drug/alcohol treatment facilities as well as working as program director of the Mindful Healing Outpatient Program.

Dr. McCarthy is currently in full-time private practice in Newport Beach, California

## Susan Mehta, Member

Intervention Specialist



Susan is a Master Level Intervention Specialist with 18 years experience in conducting interventions. She has

worked in the mental health field as a therapist, developed a psychiatric program, taught dual diagnosis programs, conducted crisis interventions, and was certified to conduct psychiatric evaluations for 5150s. She also worked in the criminal justice field conducting crisis interventions and substance abuse interventions.

**Katherine November, LCSW, Member**  
CEO, Odyssey Recovery



Katherine graduated with a Bachelors of Arts in Psychology and Masters in Social Work Degree from the University of Southern California. Katherine held a teaching position at USC, as an Adjunct Assistant

Professor within the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work.

Katherine November is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with over 15 years of experience providing direct practice to underserved populations. Katherine has worked at Children's Hospital Orange County as a Clinical Social Worker, providing resources and support to families and children with medical conditions. Katherine has also worked as a therapist, helping children with severe trauma and mental health issues. Katherine also served as a Clinical Director at a substance abuse treatment center.

Most recently, Katherine is the founder and CEO of Odyssey Recovery, a detox and residential substance abuse treatment program in Orange, CA. Katherine's passion lies in helping men on their path to recovery and working to build relationships within the community to provide outreach and awareness and reduce the stigma of addiction.

**Justine Palmore, ED Member**



Justine is the Executive Director of StandUp For Kids, Orange County program. She began her involvement with StandUp For Kids in 2006, while she was doing an

internship. She moved from being an outreach volunteer to becoming Executive Director in 2008.

After moving into the role of Executive Director, Justine became involved with the National Board in 2011 and worked as the National Interim ED for almost two years. She's remained on the National Board since 2012.

Justine also owns her own financial consulting business providing outsourced accounting, operations management and training to small businesses.

Palmore earned her B.S. in Human Services, and is a Certified Addiction Recovery Coach. She is a wife, the mother of three, and resides in Mission Viejo, CA.

## Johanna Rochin, Member

Office Manager, Former Youth

At 21, Johanna was on the streets and addicted to drugs. Things changed when she met volunteers from StandUp For Kids. Johanna showed up every week and was accountable to her mentors. She was able to learn leadership and employment skills while interning at our Anaheim Center and Entrepreneurs Program. Where she was a teachers assistant in two after school programs.



Today, Johanna is 18 months sober and works for a treatment center where she manages 10 sober living homes, does bookkeeping and is self sufficient.

Johanna says she's looking forward to giving back once she's fully on her own. "In the future I see myself volunteering with StandUp For Kids, giving back, graduating from college, and working as a drug and alcohol counselor.

"If I hadn't received the help and support from StandUp For Kids I'd probably be dead.—I was a lost cause. Everyone gave up on me except them.

"StandUp For Kids means stability, family, support, and whatever I may need as long as I show up and am willing to be helped."

When asked what she can take away from her experience with StandUp Johanna said "Hope, strength . . . I want to live now."

## Dr. Stephanie Schneider

Retired, Board of Education



Dr. Stephanie H. Schneider holds multiple academic degrees, having earned a Bachelor of Science in biological sciences from University of California, Irvine, a Master of Science in counseling and school psychology from California State University, Fullerton, and a Ph.D. in social ecology from University of California, Irvine.

Stephanie, spent ten years working with the Orange County Department of Education, 14 years with University of California, Irvine, and now is an adjunct faculty member at Brandman University and University of Southern California. A member of both the American Educational Research Association and the American Evaluation Association, Dr. Schneider has authored or co-authored 7 academic publications, and has given 8 presentations on her professional research.

Stephanie has been a volunteer at StandUp For Kids since August 2015 and is responsible for grant writing, and program design/evaluation.



## Shadi Shaffer, Esq

Asset Protection & Elder Law Center



Shadi Shaffer completed her Bachelor of Arts in Law & Society at the University of California, Santa Barbara. The following year, she went on to complete her Masters Certificate while studying

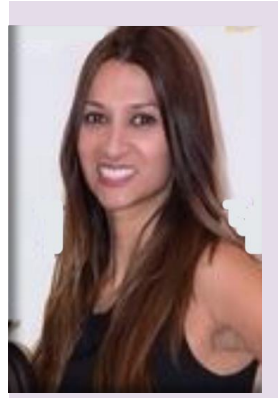
abroad in Spain. Shadi Shaffer thereafter completed her Juris Doctorate degree in San Diego, California in 2002 and was proudly admitted to the State Bar of California on November 12, 2002.

Prior to her legal career, Shadi Shaffer had an extensive and diverse work history, which helped her gain skills which has proved valuable to her legal practice. As an Attorney, she worked for the underserved at the San Diego Labor Board. She then joined a legal defense firm where she represented large insurance companies and hotels located throughout California.

Attorney Shaffer has volunteered overseas helping orphaned children. She has worked with at risk teens through the Orange County Bar Association, continues to provide numerous pro bono hours to her community, is serving her second year as a Big Sis with the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County, and is a Board Member for the Pacific Youth Symphony Ensemble of Orange County.

## Shalu Vagadia

Regional Sales Manager, Walgreens



Shalu Vagadia is a healthcare management professional with over 10 years' experience in the healthcare management and pharmaceutical industries. Today she works as a Regional Sales Manager for Walgreens, a home infusion company based in Chicago, IL.

Shalu earned a Master's in Business Administration from Pepperdine's Graziadio School of Business & Management, and a B.S. in Biology and a B.A. in Business Economics from the University of California, Riverside.

In her spare time, Shalu volunteers for Colorful-Minds, a non-profit organization for individuals with disabilities in developing countries to sell their beautiful handcrafted products.

## Carolyn Zainer, Member

EVP Sales, North America ,Island Pacific



Carolyn rejoined the Island Pacific leadership team in November 2017. She celebrates 30 years delivering retail enterprise solutions, and

leading sales, marketing and product strategy teams worldwide. As a key contributor and setting global strategies, her focus remains consistent with a mission to help customers grow their business and maintain their competitive edge in the quick changing retail landscape through technology. With her many years of solution consulting and gaining knowledge of retail best practice methodologies, she is able to translate industry requirements and influence product direction to support the delivery of measureable, value based solutions. Carolyn has worked with other leading software providers including Manugistics, NSB and Oracle, adding to her diverse knowledgebase of technologies and retail solutions.