

Meet The Board

Marni
Hirshman



How did you become familiar with STARS?

In 2015 I reconnected with an acquaintance, Anne Gray, who was heading up STARS' Advancement Department. While on a tour of the facilities, Anne's passion and excitement for the organization inspired me to get involved. I was working at Keller Williams Realty and, as a member of their outreach program, I was delighted when STARS became the recipient of "Day of Giving to the Community," for two consecutive years. A portion of the funds were used to provide the Cholla Campus with a facelift.

How did your passion for STARS turn into a Board position?

In the summer of 2017, at Anne's suggestion, I met with Dave and the Executive Board to discuss Board involvement. I was honored when an official acceptance onto the Board of Directors came in August. Due to my strong belief in STARS' mission and vision combined with substantial volunteer experience, I knew this would be a great fit.

How will you be a STARS Ambassador?

I take every opportunity to share my connection with STARS and to educate those who are unfamiliar with the organization about its great accomplishments and impactful work. Some of these conversations have happily resulted in recruitment of new Board members! I have introduced friends, family, and colleagues to STARS with invitations to fundraising events.

What emotion comes to mind when you think of STARS?

STARS makes me feel PROUD! Proud of the remarkable work they do every single day; Proud of the extraordinary commitment and dedication of its staff; Proud of the incredible love from the participant's families. This long-standing organization has flourished over the past 49 years and that says a lot for a non-profit. A focus on continual improvement has allowed STARS to excel at its goals.

What sets STARS apart from the other Valley nonprofits helping individuals with developmental disabilities.

STARS is particularly invested in helping individuals with developmental disabilities create a life of their own and become working adults in a community that welcomes them into the workplace. This work is a team effort between the organization and the business community at large. It warms my heart to see how this synergy benefits both the individual and their families. It is a priceless treasure for the parents or guardians of STARS participants to witness their adult children obtain a job that they love to do every day.



I am honored and humbled to be a steady and strong advocate for such an amazing organization made up of impressive people who keep it moving in a positive direction and give their heart and soul to it every day.



Tell us a little about yourself.

STARS resonates with me for many reasons including my past involvement with: Challenger Baseball Program with Little League (local league President, 2004-2009). The LL baseball players assisted and befriended the participants to enjoy a game of baseball that was purely enjoyable for all involved; "Special Ed" classrooms in the 1970's when, as a young student helping with activities, I learned how meaningful it is to give careful attention to those in need; my first cousin, Andrew, whom I visited while he was living in a state facility due to his Down Syndrome. It was the early 1960's when my aunt and uncle placed him there. Back then parents didn't have the tools and support that exist today. It warms my heart to see the growth in our communities to support the children and families so they can create homes where they can all live, love, and learn together.



STARSAZ.ORG | 480.994.5704

Osborn Campus: 7507 E. Osborn Rd | Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Cholla Campus: 11130 E. Cholla Street #H-110 | Scottsdale, AZ 85259

