

2020 MEND Officers

A. Jabbar Abdi, Chair: Jabbar is a Managing Partner at Sidereal Capital, a private equity firm that invests in select lower middle-market companies. Prior to joining Sidereal, Jabbar was a Managing Director at Cordova, Smart, & Williams, LLC, a middle-market private equity firm where he was a key member of the investment team. Jabbar joined CSW from GE Capital where he held various positions, including Vice President in GE Capital's Merchant Banking Unit. Prior to his tenure at GE Capital, Jabbar focused on strategy development and implementation in the financial services sector. Jabbar began his career with Furman Selz, a New York-based investment bank where he conducted an assortment of mergers and acquisitions, public equity offerings, and private placements.

Jabbar earned an A.B. from Harvard College and an M.B.A. from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania.

Karen Hartshorn Hilton, Vice Chair: Karen is a South Orange Village Trustee, and a consultant for Growth for Good, a nonprofit organization providing strategic planning and fundraising planning services. Previously, she served as the founding Executive Director for Emerge New Jersey, where she led the organization in developing a training program, recruiting potential candidates, managing the board of directors and fundraising. She has been an active in South Orange throughout her career. She chaired the board of trustees of the South Orange Public Library for more than a decade, and still serves as the president of the library's foundation. She has been a member of the Junior League for more than thirty years and is a past president of the Junior League of the Oranges and Short Hills. She has been active with the South Orange and Maplewood public schools as well as the Girl Scouts.

Karen received her B.A. from William Smith College and her Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Massachusetts. Karen and her husband are in the adventure of a lifetime in raising four children.

Kate Cahill, Treasurer: Kate seeks to use her business skills developed from a career in the New York City financial sector to support non-profit organizations. She focuses a majority of time on hunger-relief initiatives. To that end, Kate serves as a trustee for MEND and FoodBank News and manages The Food Pantry at Our Lady of Sorrows, South Orange.

Also, Kate serves on the boards of The Oratorio Society of New York, a 200-member chorus that performs at Carnegie Hall, and Willamette University, Salem, OR, the oldest university in the western US. She is the founder of Transit-Oriented Properties, LLC.

Kate has held positions in banking, fixed income securities sales, and futures brokerage with JP Morgan Chase, and institutional client relations with Daiwa International Asset Management. In 2010, Kate retired from BlackRock, Inc. as Managing Director after 12 years in Global Consultant Relations, Institutional Products, and Investment Communications. She earned a BS degree in finance, *cum laude*, from Boston College. Kate lived in Dublin, Ireland from 2010-2011. In her spare time, she enjoys biking and hiking, especially in the Pacific Northwest.

Claire Sinclair, Secretary: Claire is a staple in the Maplewood/South Orange community. Both she and her husband, as well as her parents and her two sons, were raised here, and she currently teaches Kindergarten at Tuscan Elementary School (in the same classroom where she attended Kindergarten!). Claire has spearheaded community outreach efforts at the school, and in the greater community through her Feed SOMany Facebook group. She regularly coordinates food drives, diaper drives, book drives and pajama drives to benefit those in need.

Claire received her B.A. in Elementary Education from The American University. Recently, she completed her Master's Degree in Restorative Practices, an emerging social science that strengthens relationships in schools and communities to promote social connections.