

TransAct Hope

Board of Directors



Tom Werlein, President

Tom graduated from Appleton East High School, the University of Wisconsin-Madison [Economics] and the University of Minnesota Law Center. While in law school, Tom crossed the line of faith and almost immediately began volunteering, first with the High School ministry at Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie, MN, and most recently with Transact Hope where he is able to put 1 Timothy 6:17-19 into daily practice. Tom has been married to Jeana for thirty some years and has four adult children. He enjoys playing golf, running and mountain biking, when he's not being an attorney for Sentry Insurance Company in Stevens Point.

Kris Koch, Vice President



Kris grew up in Racine, Wisconsin, graduating from Washington Park High School and the University of Wisconsin at Parkside. He performed his MBA studies at Campbell University (Fort Bragg, NC) and North Carolina State University. Kris spent the majority of his 43-year career working in executive management in the Graphic Arts Industry with assignments in Wisconsin, Kansas, North Carolina, Maryland, Michigan before finishing his career at Worzalla, Inc. in Stevens Point. Kris's volunteer history includes being a Hunter Safety Instructor, AAU Travel League Baseball Coach (13U to 18U) and United Special Sportsman Alliance Mentor for Disabled Kids and Veterans. Since moving to the Stevens Point area in 2011, Kris has volunteered in multiple ministries through Woodlands Church including Christmas Outreach Banquet, Spring into Action, Local Outreach Advisory Committee and Hooked for Life. He began volunteering at TransAct Hope in 2019 and was elected to the Board of Directors in September 2021. Kris accepted Christ into his life approximately 20 years ago and his goal since has been to help others prosper and succeed in life through prayer, goal setting, persistence (never giving up) and believing that Jesus has a plan for them. The challenges involved in rebuilding lives at TransAct Hope are substantial. The potential rewards are even greater.



Jessica Luisi, Secretary

Jessica was born in Milwaukee, raised in Adams County and moved to Stevens Point in 2013. She has two adult children. Jessica was one of the first participants in TransAct Hope, and because of her relationship with Jesus has been able to overcome many life obstacles. She has been employed with DigiCopy for 5 years and currently is the Operations Support Lead for the Central Wisconsin locations. Jessica's ongoing involvement with Woodland's Church ministries such as Jobs for Life, Spring into Action and the Moving Ministry enable Jessica to come alongside others giving back the very life lines Jesus gave her.



Collene Ottum, Treasurer

After experiencing many difficult life experiences, Collene Ottum developed a passion for serving the Lord by working with individuals and families in similar difficult circumstances. Collene has worked for Portage County in various financial capacities since 1987. She has a Master's Degree in Human Services Counseling (Addiction and Recovery) and a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a core in accounting, and an emphasis in human resource management and labor/management relations. Collene has served as a volunteer and board member for First Choice Pregnancy Resource Center, Destiny Point Women's Restoration Home, the Family Resource Center, Portage County Health and Human Services Employees Foundation, KASH Playground, and TransAct Hope. She has also served as a volunteer with Jobs for Life, Faith and Finances, Spring into Action, and Operation Christmas Child.



JOE FONTI
CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER

Joe Fonti

Joe Fonti grew up in the Madison area and graduated from Sun Prairie High School. Upon graduating from high school, he received his undergraduate degree from St. John's University in Minnesota and a law degree from Drake Law School. He worked as a real estate attorney in Minneapolis prior to joining Furniture & Appliance Mart. He along with his brothers are the majority owner of the 15 Furniture & Appliance Mart and Ashley HomeStores in Wisconsin. He recently purchased the Wisconsin Rapids Rafter's baseball team along with his brother Vinnie. Jesus has been the guiding force in his life. He is focused on making a difference in the community and hopefully having Jesus tell him well done good and faithful servant at the conclusion of his life on Earth. He is excited about the mission of TransAct Hope. The TransAct Hope ministry has made a difference in the lives of program participants. Jesus has been at the center of the transformation for TransAct Hope program participants. The need is great for the TransAct Hope ministry, and our Executive Director and the Board are committed to growing this ministry.



Bob Kulp

Bob was born in Elkhart Indiana and is married with seven children and ten grandchildren. Bob is a roofing and insulation contractor, and Wisconsin State Assembly Representative (since 2013). Bob is a member of the National Roofing Contractors' Association (former Vice Chairperson), Construction Specifications Institute – Wausau Chapter (past President), Small Business Administration Regulatory Fairness Board, Wausau Area Builders Association, and the Noon Rotary Club of Marshfield.

Paul Rudnick

Paul Rudnick grew up in Milwaukee Wisconsin. After serving in The US Navy, Paul attended UW - Milwaukee, completing their Sign Language Interpreter training program and becoming a certified sign language interpreter. He then attended UW - Stout and earned a degree in Vocational Rehabilitation. While attending college Paul worked summers as a counselor, ropes course director and unit director at the Wisconsin Lions Camp in Rosholt, WI, serving children and adults with disabilities. While working at WLC Paul met and married his wife Jennifer. During the school year Paul worked for a program that served community members, assisting them with job placement and job skills. After graduation, Paul took a job at Sunburst Youth Homes, a residential treatment center located in Neillsville WI. At Sunburst Paul lead a program that helped students with the skills needed to find and keep a job. Paul then moved to Stevens Point and started working at Skyward Inc., serving in a variety of capacities for over 25 years, including recruiting, interviewing, and hiring new employees. When Paul first moved to Stevens Point he served two terms as a board member of Community Industries; it's mission was to empower people with disabilities to achieve their work and life goals. Paul has also volunteered at local technical colleges and universities, working with students on resume writing and interviewing skills. Paul, Jennifer and their children are active long term members of Saint Paul Lutheran Church. Paul looks forward to supporting ope to our neighbors and connecting them to Christ.



Doug Schneider

Doug has been serving as the Pastor of Outreach Ministries at Woodlands Church in Plover since 2008. Prior to serving at Woodlands, Doug spent 17 years in ministry with Intervarsity Christian Fellowship in Illinois. In 2012, Doug worked with a team of leaders from Woodlands and other churches to envision and found TransACT Hope, offering hope to their neighbors committed to improve their lives; connecting them to Christ, affordable housing and a community of caring people. Working with these and other great lay lead ministries fuels Doug's passion for bringing a clear articulation of the gospel to those who do not yet know Christ. Along the way, Doug enjoys fishing, hunting and when his body permits, running...especially when it allows him to come along side others who are eager to grow in Christ.



Craig Shuler

The Fox Valley native graduated from Neenah High School and UW-Milwaukee and has been a leader in ethical Christian professional corporate management for the past 27 years. For nine years, Craig opened and managed Kinko's stores across Wisconsin and metro Detroit, and since 2000, has served as President/CEO of DigiCopy, the company he also founded. Craig's other volunteer activities include Woodlands Church, Jobs for Life, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Salvation Army of Stevens Point, and the Portage County Literacy Council. Craig and his wife Julie have five children.



Daryl Woods

Daryl has experience working with individuals and families affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence. Daryl is also a talented drummer and is involved with the worship ministry at Woodlands Church. Daryl and his wife lead a Trauma Care group at Woodlands Church. Daryl has a heart for the Lord and for using his talents to serve others as the Lord directs.