



PAMELA DONOVAN

Co-Founder & President

Pamela is the Founder, President, and CEO of the Board of Ethan & the Bean. The organization is built on her son's life as he navigates the world of disabilities. The Donovans found themselves like millions of other families across the country fearful of their child's future once they age out of the educational system.

The unemployment rate is well over 80% for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Ethan & the Bean aims to help this grossly marginalized population in the nation.

The core mission is to train and employ individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Bringing years of experience in leadership positions and as a parent who knows first hand the struggles of navigating the world of employment for IDD individuals, Pam runs Ethan & the Bean with heart and compassion. She hopes that the business will grow, thrive, and help others for years to come.





PATRICK DONOVAN

**Co-Founder & Vice President of
Special Events**

Patrick is Ethan's father and an integral member of the Ethan & the Bean board. Like his wife Pamela, he worried what Ethan's future would look like once out of the education system. Together with Pamela and the other members of the board, Patrick has helped make Ethan & the Bean what it is today.

He presently works as Director of BCO/NVO Sales for CMA-CGM and has for the past nine years. He brings 30+ years of work experience, specializing in International Transportation.

Patrick is also Chairperson for Ethan & the Bean's Annual Golf Fundraising event. The outing is a major event in supporting Ethan & the Bean's mission of creating opportunities for training & meaningful employment for persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. His contribution to this Committee and Ethan & the Bean as a whole is invaluable.





Bernice Caruso Donato

Treasury & Governance Officer

Bernice Caruso Donato serves as Treasury & Governance Officer for Ethan & the Bean. A fractional COO/CFO specializing in strategy, finance, and operations, she brings an accounting background and extensive experience helping organizations strengthen financial oversight, governance, and operational performance.

Bernice also served as Treasurer and Strategic Planning Co-Lead for ICF New Jersey. Her work focuses on building the financial discipline, leadership alignment, and organizational infrastructure organizations need for sustainable growth.





KARLY MEYER

Vice President

Karly Meyer holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Ramapo College. With over 15 years of experience, including her tenure as Vice President of D. S. Meyer Enterprises LLC, she has established herself as a respected leader in the construction industry.

Karly currently serves as the President of KRM LLC, a leading consulting firm specializing in construction management. She is known for her innovative thinking, results-driven approach, and commitment to making a positive impact on society.

Karly joins Ethan & the Bean as COO with a passion to grow the mission while focusing on the commitment to support and train every employee that chooses to work with us.





ERICA GILLESPIE

Board Secretary

Education: BS, Management, Rutgers University School of Business

Business Background: Sr. Recruiting Partner + Training Coach, Goodwin Recruiting /
Hospitality Industry Executive

Strategic operations leader with 20+ years scaling successful concepts within the food + beverage industry. Driven by a passion for learning, teaching, and building values-driven cultures and high performing teams. Forward thinking and hospitality focused, skilled in integrating emerging workplace technology solutions.

An influential and motivating leader with strong strategic vision, a great passion for food, people, and commitment to excellence. Proven ability to coach and develop high-performing teams and instill a heightened sense of accountability.

Extensive experience leading organizational change and bringing a brand vision to life, resulting in an overall better customer and employee experience. At ease in high-stress, fast-paced environments with emerging and multiple responsibilities.





ROBERT PRICE

**Event Sponsorship & Venue
Coordinator**

Robert has over 30 years experience as a business leader, philanthropist, and advocate. He is the owner of Your Choice Home Care LLC, a NJ based DDD home care provider agency dedicated to serving individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Robert lives in New Jersey with his wife Jodi and two sons. His work experience as well as his education; which includes a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Kean University, a Master's in Business Administration from Duke University, and a FinTech certificate from Harvard University; all lend to a skillset he utilizes for his role in Business Development at Ethan & the Bean.





BETH O'NEILL

Grant Writer

Beth's life has given her a unique skill set that has transferred to her work at Ethan & the Bean. Her full time work as a Proposal Writer and Sales Administrative Assistant has helped her in her previous role as Board Secretary and in her new responsibilities as Grant Writer for Ethan & the Bean. Her leadership roles as Chairperson for PFA Project Safe Graduation and Boy Scout Tricky Tray, Service Unit Manager, and Girl Scout leader equipped her with valuable organizational skills, strong work ethic, and commitment to building strong relationships.

Her experience as a mother of 5, some with learning disabilities, has given her a peek into the world of parenting children with IDD and fueled her desire to create a safe community and advocate for those who can't use their own voice.





JANET BLANCHARD

Education & Program Development Advisor

Mrs. Blanchard received her Bachelor of Arts in Special Education and Master's Degree in Educational Administration from William Paterson University. Mrs. Blanchard served as the Director of Curriculum and Principal in the public schools for 31 years within Bergen County. Mrs. Blanchard was responsible for the oversight of the daily operation of a comprehensive high school, as well as the academic curriculum for the district for grades K – 12. Prior to her service as an administrator, Mrs. Blanchard was a teacher for students with disabilities.

Mrs. Blanchard served as a mentor through the NJ Leaders to Leaders program and is a member of the Alliance of Private Special Education Schools of Northern NJ. She is currently serving as the principal at Banyan High School.





JOSEPH BARBIERI

Director of Strategic Alliances

Joseph Barbieri, the Head of Sales for New Jersey Business Banking at Valley Bank, was born and raised in Elmwood Park, NJ, and now resides in Livingston, NJ with his wife Michele and their 18-year-old daughter Valentina.

Joseph's career in banking began in 1995 as a part-time teller at Lakeview Savings Bank while he attended Montclair State University, where he graduated in 1999 with a BA in History. His professional journey includes significant stints at the Bank of New York for five years and Spencer Savings Bank in Elmwood Park for 13 years before joining Valley Bank six years ago.

Known for his leadership and commitment to excellence, Joseph has played a crucial role in shaping the bank's business banking portfolio. Beyond his professional life, he cherishes his family time and maintains a healthy work-life balance





FRANCESCA CWYNAR

Community Outreach Manager

Francesca is a freelance creative consultant and social entrepreneur. A graduate of Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business, she brings 12 years of experience in the hospitality and non-profit sectors.

The focus of her work includes content development across multiple mediums, community and partnership management, strategic communications, and supporting small businesses. Her creative eye lends itself to aiding in event production, styling photo shoots and supporting clients in crafting attention grabbing content and experiences. Words are her bread and butter.

At Ethan & the Bean, Francesca serves as Community and Communications Manager and her focuses include community engagements, marketing, and peer support.

Francesca is a passionate mental health and disability advocate and believes that food has the potential to empower and include.





LISA FISCHBEIN

Secretary

Lisa Fischman is an accomplished educational leader with more than 14 years of experience dedicated to empowering children, supporting educators, and building strong, inclusive communities.

Lisa holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and two master's degrees, one in the Art of Teaching and one in Educational Leadership.

A lifelong athlete, Lisa was a three-sport collegiate athlete and went on to play professional basketball. The lessons she learned through athletics, discipline, resilience, teamwork, and servant leadership, continue to shape her leadership philosophy and inspire her work in education and community service.

Whether leading a school community or mentoring aspiring leaders, Lisa believes that meaningful relationships, compassionate leadership, and a shared vision have the power to transform lives. She is honored to use her professional experience, athletic background, and passion for service to create opportunities that strengthen communities and make a lasting impact.

