

Barbara Rady Kazdan

Launched creative non-fiction career after 30+ years of local and national non-profit leadership. Contributing author, Contagious Optimism, 10 Habits of Truly Optimistic People, NextAve.org, BetterAfer50.org and Living Better 50. Work has appeared in Forbes.com

Career Highlights

Published dozens of essays in books and online. Created, designed, marketed, and led local and national social change initiatives. Grew Ashoka's U.S. Program from 29 to 119 social entrepreneurs. Founded consulting/coaching practice. Founded Houston's urban literacy coalition.

Achieving Change Together

2010 to present

Founder/President

Write personal essays, memoir, non-fiction, and marketing materials

Co-author, Passing the Torch, insights on non-profit leadership transitions; publication 2016

Connect social innovators, investors, and community leaders to solve entrenched social problems

Strategic planning adviser to CEO of Parents Alliance

Certified career coach for accomplished professionals entering the non-profit sector

Ashoka: Innovators for the Public Arlington, VA

2003 -2009

Director: Ashoka-U.S.

Grew the U.S. Fellowship of leading social entrepreneurs 4X

Attracted investments of \$8M to spur solutions to social problems

Led the global organization in the number and quality of Fellows elected

Made Ashoka-US Fellowship Community a model

Transformed annual induction into a signature, high profile event (e.g., at Google HQ)

Built and maintained strategic partnerships (McKinsey and Co.; Booz, Allen Hamilton, Hill & Knowlton)

Directed a new communications and marketing program

Co-authored *Recognizing Outstanding Innovators*

Reviewer/nominator: Purpose Prize, Heinz Award, Echoing Green, New Profit, and Prime Movers

International Fostering of Ophthalmic Care for Underserved Sectors (InFOCUS) Houston, TX

1995-2003

Founding Executive Director

Led new initiative to national prominence (Outstanding Project, American Public Health Association Vision Care Section)

Launched the Center for Primary Eye Care Development

Created the Vision Station model, replicated in urban and rural US and in developing countries

Managed the manufacture and international sales of a diagnostic eye care device

Tri-Sector Enterprises Houston, TX

1991 - 1995

Founder

Established a consulting practice to promote entrepreneurial public, private & non-profit partnerships

Created a project singled out for funding by Oprah Winfrey

Houston READ Commission Houston, TX

1987 - 1991

Founding Executive Director (per ordinance mandating this literacy coordinating agency)

Led the mayor's literacy coordinating agency from inception to recognition as a national model

Established 13 technology-assisted literacy centers, each a private, public, non-profit partnership

Raised \$3 million in 3 years

Developed, spokesperson for marketing campaigns with Fortune 1000 companies

Developed and directed grant-making program to fund local literacy organizations.

Changed public policy to make community-based programs eligible for National Literacy Act funding

Civic Engagement (current)

National board, Humane Farm Animal Care

National board, Media & Policy Center Foundation

Senior Leadership Montgomery, Class of 2012

Leadership Highlights

Governor's Task Force on Literacy (Texas); chaired subcommittee that developed statewide plan

Mayor's Literacy Task Force (Houston); chaired subcommittee that developed citywide plan

Developed grant guidelines and reviewed proposals for Greater Houston Women's Foundation

Leadership Houston, 1991

Development Vice President, National Urban Literacy Network

15+ years of local, state, regional and national leadership of voluntary women's organization

Organized 10-city literacy task force; named Outstanding Project and adopted nationwide

Early Career

Director, Midwest Region Job Corps Education Program

Co-opted for federal evaluation team to assess private sector Job Corp Centers

Tutor/counselor, IBM Job Corps Center

Program specialist, Job Corps Basic Education Branch

Editorial department, Science Research Associates educational publisher

Education

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

AB, English/History with Secondary Teaching Certification

University of Houston, Houston, Texas

Graduate Seminar in Public Administration

Jones Graduate School of Administration, Rice University, Houston Texas

Management Program

International Centre for Eye Health, London

Community Eye Health Program Planning

Continuing Education

Workshops/retreats: Writers Center (Bethesda MD), Politics and Prose,

Omega Institute, Hollowdeck Press Writing Guilds

Sara Mansfield Taber Memoir Club, 2010 to present

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