

Debbie Arakel Sheppard

MBA, BA Psychology

Debbie Arakel-Sheppard is the Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity California – the state support organization for 41 Habitat for Humanity Affiliates in California, committed to increasing affordable housing statewide.

She served as the Executive Director for Nevada County Habitat for Humanity for over ten years, and prior to moving into the nonprofit sector, Debbie was a management consultant with Accenture. She worked internationally with global organizations in the manufacturing and electronics and high-tech industries including Cisco Systems, Akzo Nobel, Motorola and International Paper.

Debbie served as Vice President on the Board of Directors for Sacramento Habitat and volunteered with Habitat International in Ethiopia and Costa Rica. Locally, she's been a volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters, a member of Nevada County Contractors' Association (NCCA) and a trainer and member of the Center for Nonprofit Leadership (CNL). Debbie and her husband Stephen built their own home in Smartsville, where they live with their dog Alice, a stray pig called Molly and a few too many chickens and guinea hens.

Debbie earned her M.B.A. from Vanderbilt University, and holds a B.A. in Psychology from Pepperdine University.

Wendy Willoughby

Wendy Willoughby began working with the Center for Nonprofit Leadership in late 2008 and for over 10 years has had the pleasure and honor to learn from some of the most dedicated and passionate leaders in Nevada County's nonprofit sector. Prior to CNL, Wendy served as the Development and Education Director at the Foothill Theatre Company in Nevada City. She holds a BA in Theatre and Dance from UC Irvine and while living in Southern CA, helped found the Vanguard Theater in Orange County and was an artistic company member and Development Director for the award winning Los Angeles Theater troupe, Circle X.

Wendy is also proud to work for our Nevada County Fair as their Community Outreach Coordinator, managing several key areas of the annual Fair's activities. Being a 4th generation Nevada County resident, she was delighted to return to her home town to raise her family near dear relatives and friends. Wendy lives with her husband, Matthew, daughters, Olivia and Simone, their 2 fluffy black cats and the sweetest Lab in the world, Wheeler. She spends her free time going on 'field work' with her kids through their EL Education School, Grass Valley Charter where she also serves as the GVCS Foundation President and co-producer of their festival, Blue Marble Jubilee.