



STARTING POINT NAMES NEW PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Nancy Mendez

The Starting Point Board of Directors today announced Nancy Mendez has been appointed the organization's new President and Chief Executive Officer, effective May 3. She succeeds Billie Osborne-Fears, who led the agency for 30 years before her unexpected passing.

Ms. Mendez has an impressive background as a leader in the human services field and brings a wealth of experience to her new role. She comes to Starting Point from United Way of Greater Cleveland, where she was the Vice President of Community Investment and Chief Community Investment Officer. There she played a significant role in launching the Community Hub for Basic Needs and the Impact Institute and was responsible for overseeing the organization's community impact programs, special projects, allocations, grants management and 2-1-1 Helplink service.

Adam Munson, Board Chairman, noted, "We're fortunate to have found the right person in Nancy Mendez to build on the legacy of Starting Point's founding Executive Director Billie Osborne-Fears and position Starting Point for a successful future. Nancy is a thoughtful, capable executive whose work in addressing community needs and core issues like poverty has already made a meaningful impact on the Northeast Ohio community. We look forward to Nancy leading and empowering our talented, dedicated Starting Point staff to create opportunities and achieve positive outcomes for our community's families and children."

In response to the appointment, Nancy Mendez said, "I am excited to take on this important responsibility. At United Way, I worked with Billie on many issues critical to our community, including the pervasiveness of poverty among children, and have long recognized the remarkable breadth of the work Starting Point has done to offer the support and high quality services children and their families need to thrive. Coming to Starting Point offers me the rare opportunity to carry forward Billie's incredible work, in partnership with her accomplished Starting Point staff."

Nancy Mendez serves on the boards of The George Gund Foundation, JumpStart and Cuyahoga Arts and Culture. She was selected as a member of the Leadership Cleveland class of 2020 and has been named as a 2013 Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan by the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission. In 2013, Ms. Mendez was a United Way Global Fellow, part of an elite group of national and international United Way staff selected to participate in the 2013-2014 United Way Fellowship Program.

Welcome, Nancy Mendez!