CARING COLLECTIVE

Nonprofits for Stronger Communities

An Opportunity *Exclusively* for Non-Profit Chief Executives!

CHIEF EXECUTIVE PEER CIRCLES

"Participating in the Chief Executive Peer Circles with The Caring Collective has been incredibly meaningful. As a CEO, it is rare to have a space where you can be both honest and supported by peers who truly understand the weight of leadership. This group provided connection, encouragement, perspective, and a sense of community that is deeply needed in executive roles. I appreciated the opportunity to learn from others, share openly, and be reminded that none of us are leading alone!!!"

Heather Todd, CEO, Teen Court of Sarasota, Inc.

Invest in yourself AND elevate your organization

A non-profit executive faces daily demands on time, energy, and resources. Investing in personal leadership and skills development and building your peer network can easily take a back seat in the rush of day-to-day operations. Investing time developing your own skills can substantially benefit not only you as a leader, it can also impact the development and success of your staff and non-profit as well. Caring Collective is thrilled to once again offer a place for you-to grow, build partnerships and enjoy the company of your peer colleagues.

Announcing the 3rd Annual *Chief Executive Peer Circles*

- Nonprofit executives carry a unique set of responsibilities that few truly understand. Chief Executive Peer Circles offer a trusted space to connect with others who live the same reality—balancing mission impact with financial stewardship, board relations, staff management, and external expectations. This is a space where meaningful insight, empathy, and perspective come from shared experience at the top.
- Executives in our community bring diverse strengths and areas for growth. These circles provide a unique forum to share hard-earned lessons, tackle real-time challenges, and spark innovation in a supportive, confidential environment.
- Cohorts of 7–10 nonprofit leaders will be formed based on leadership experience, goals, and development interests, offering structured yet flexible time for reflection, feedback, and growth.
- The initial kickoff meeting will be 2.5–3 hours, held on September 29, 2026. Following the kickoff, we anticipate eight to nine 2-hour meetings over the next ten months, with the schedule determined by Circle members.
- Brynne Anne Besio will facilitate and support the Circles. Brynne Anne's biography is at the end of this announcement.
- A safe space for open sharing is our top priority. All participants must agree to uphold the trust of the group by keeping all shared information strictly confidential.
- Over time, members often form strong bonds, meeting informally, mentoring one another, and becoming sounding boards for the hard decisions. The result is reduced isolation, renewed energy, and deeper clarity in your leadership.

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Value to You – and Your Non-Profit

Depending on cohort priorities, opportunities for personal and professional development include:

- Peer Learning: Exchange experiences and tackle challenges with fellow leaders.
- Strategic Collaboration: Leverage collective resources to maximize impact.
- Professional Growth: Gain skills and knowledge in areas such as strategic planning, board governance, succession planning, fundraising, financial management, and more.
- Innovative Solutions: Explore cutting-edge approaches to management.
- Advocacy & Influence: A better understanding about advocacy and its importance as part of representing your organization.
- Resource Sharing: Access a diverse pool of resources and tools.
- Collaboration: Opportunity to create shared initiatives for mutually beneficial outcomes
- Networking: Form lasting connections that foster personal and organizational growth.
- Crisis Resilience: Learn to manage and thrive through crises.
- DEI Commitment: Promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Sustainability Focus: Plan for your organization's long-term sustainability.

Who Can Participate?

To ensure peer-to-peer engagement, we invite the most senior leaders (*for example*, Chief Executive Officer, Executive Director) of any 501(c)(3) non-profit (small, mid-size or large) in Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte, and DeSoto counties to apply for participation.

Cost

Each Chief Executive Peer Circle is professionally facilitated by an experienced leadership consultant who ensures meaningful dialogue, productive group dynamics, and actionable takeaways. Over the course of 10 months, participants will have the opportunity to learn from each other, from the facilitator and select guest experts on topics of their choosing such as strategic leadership, fundraising, HR, governance, and burnout prevention.

The full value of the 10-month program is $1,250, which includes over 20 hours of facilitation, expert presentations, printed materials, and access to a confidential, high-level peer group. However, **thanks to the generous support of the Caring Collective and committed donors, the cost to each participant is just $625**. Payment is due upon acceptance into the program. Space is limited to ensure high-impact engagement, so early application is encouraged.

Anticipated Start Date

We anticipate the program session starting September 29, 2026.

Why Caring Collective?

For 35 years, our leadership, services, and partnership have supported the excellence of non-profits in our community. We are thrilled to offer this program that, based on feedback from our inaugural program participants, will contribute to both leadership skills development and non-profit excellence.

Next Steps

The application process will open today, and we invite you to participate in this innovative program by completing the online application! The deadline to apply is August 31, 2026.

For More Information

For more information, we invite you to contact Charlene Altenhain, Chief Executive Officer, Caring Collective, at caltenhain@caring-collective.org or at (941) 867-4387.

Strong Leaders ~ Strong Non-Profits.

BIO – Brynne Anne Besio, MS, CFRE

Brynne Anne Besio, MS, CFRE brings over 35 years of leadership experience in nonprofits in the areas of health care, human services, animal welfare, arts and culture. Brynne Anne recently led the Bishop Museum of Science and Nature retiring in 2021, consults with Carter-Global and provides CEO coaching and board training. Brynne Anne has served as Interim CEO and provided counsel to nonprofits in the areas of governance, strategic planning, fundraising, capital campaign management, executive leadership counsel and capacity building. She is the chair of the Florida Association of Museums Foundation and regularly presents at professional development conferences and for webinars. She is also serving as a board member of AFP Southwest Florida. Brynne Anne brings both the depth and breadth of her experience to nonprofit partners. She is an expert at fostering relationships that create an aligned and cohesive team of volunteers, staff, and board members working toward a common mission and vision.