



## Two Board Members at the Heart of JPA

### Nan Kaehler

Nan Kaehler's commitment to the Juvenile Protective Association is as much a part of her DNA as her blonde hair and green eyes. Hers is a third-generation JPA family, starting when her mother, Paula Trienens, joined the women's board in 1960.

As a student at New Trier in the late 1960s, Nan recalls volunteering at JPA's summer camp, playing with the kids – “who were assured of getting clean clothes and two good meals” — while parents received therapy and services. “Everything's been exacerbated now,” she said recently. “The rich are richer and the poor are poorer...People have been pushed out of homes they've lived in for years.”

She loves JPA because it commits to handling children's big issues directly. “It's no frills,” she says. “We do the dirty work, what no one else wants to do. It would be easy just to refer people to other agencies instead of being there for students and teachers in schools.”

Nan especially values JPA's “unconditional love” for the people it serves. “They do the tough work that needs to be done.” We're glad to have Nan in our corner.

### Bob Johnson

Unlike Nan, Bob Johnson has only been on the JPA Board for a year, but his connection goes much farther back. He's known about JPA for a decade, having attended our gala for several years and volunteered to make “What Women Want” events a success. This year, he chairs JPA's gala. His enthusiasm for JPA as well as his personal energy are evident even over the phone.

“I'd just become a parent and realized it's important to provide that child with guidance,” he says. Being on JPA's board gives him the “opportunity to help other kids who might not have the resources.”

Bob grew up on the South Side in a working-class family that worked hard to give him every advantage, so he has a lot of empathy for JPA's kids. When he was asked to chair this year's event, JPA's largest single fundraising source, he “jumped right in.” He was excited to work with VenueOne, as well as create a less formal, more casual approach to draw in old and new attendees.

Closing the conversation, Bob says, “It's an amazing group of people at 1707.” Although he may not spend his days here, he's part of that amazing group as well.