



Joanne Oppelt
Executive Director

Joanne Oppelt was named Executive Director of CONTACT We Care in September 2011. She manages day-to-day agency operations, develops budgets, increases net revenues and oversees organizational marketing and resource development efforts.

A veteran of the human services sector, Joanne came to CONTACT We Care with an impressive track record of strengthening an organization through program development, increased community exposure and, perhaps most importantly, financial growth that enables an organization to fulfill its mission.



Before taking the helm at CONTACT We Care Joanne served as development director for Community Access Unlimited (CAU), a nonprofit human services agency serving people with disabilities and at-risk youth. During her nine years at CAU Joanne personally raised more than \$9.3 million through government, corporate, foundation and individual support, increasing the agency's annual operating revenue by more than \$1.75 million. She also generated hundreds of thousands of dollars in cost reductions by negotiating strategic vendor relationships. In addition, Joanne created the agency's corporate marketing program and materials and instituted the CAU Community Network, a collaboration between CAU and local businesses for mutual benefit.

During her tenure at Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey, Joanne oversaw a \$1.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education and formed a statewide Parental Assistance Advisory Committee, bringing together groups with competing agendas in a common goal. She also garnered state and national recognition of the organization as the NJ Parents As Teachers state coordinating agency.

While at the March of Dimes, Joanne facilitated the funding allocation process through the volunteer Health Professionals Advisory Committee and also facilitated the volunteer Community Health Education Committee, where she implemented professional education conferences and increased volunteer participation in the Babies and You Speakers Bureau by 200 percent.

Joanne holds a bachelor of arts degree in education from Bethany University in Santa Cruz, CA, and a master's in health administration from Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, PA. She is an adjunct professor at Kean University and author of *Confessions of a Successful Grant Writer*.



Joanne brings to CONTACT We Care exceptional planning and organizational skills that enable her goal-oriented approach to flourish. She is highly analytical, including financial analysis, which ideally suits her for the business side of operating a nonprofit. Equally important, Joanne is skilled in communication and empathy, relationship building and collaboration, enabling her to garner support for an organization, both from within and without.

Joanne was drawn to CONTACT We Care by our mission and the dedication of our staff, volunteers and funding partners. Drawing on the organization's strengths and her own skills and experience, Joanne's goals for CONTACT We Care include:

- More volunteers taking more calls, thereby helping more people in need
- Greater community presence, through enhanced marketing and grass roots outreach
- Greater collaboration with the business and legislative communities
- Greater collaboration with schools, at both the high school and college levels
- Enhanced empowerment of staff and volunteers to allow for greater leveraging of ideas
- Increased funding to enable achievement of these goals

"I have the pleasure of a career that allows me to bring passion to what I do. Working with others I make a difference – in the lives of those we serve and in the community. To do this, I have made integrity, honesty and forthrightness the cornerstone of my career. Connecting with people and furthering a worthy cause lifts me."

— Joanne Oppelt