

# Board of Trustees Profiles



## Cynthia Adkins

*Executive Director, TIRR Foundation*

**Why I serve:** I believe in the mission of The Joy School and the population it serves. The Joy School truly helps children reach their potential and compensate for their struggles so they can have a successful academic experience.

**How I found TJS:** I have known about The Joy School since it opened its doors. I have recently become reacquainted with the School thanks to Mary Watt, Lisa Stone and Kirby McCool.



## John Britton

*Chief Operating Officer, Grayco Partners, LLC*

**Why I serve:** At TJS, our son received the specialized education he needed and is now thriving. I strongly believe in the School's mission and how it changes the trajectory of a child's life.

**How I found TJS:** We found The Joy School after searching for a school that would meet our son's needs.



## Stephen Cordill

*UBS Private Wealth Management*

**Why I serve:** I joined the Board to help empower the School to grow its capacity and breadth of programs in order to continue to serve a critical need in the Houston community.

**How I found TJS:** We found The Joy School through Kim and David Sterling, Ronnie and Dorothy Cuenod and Lisa and David Stone, all of whom had children there. Our youngest has learning differences, and his experience at The Joy School equipped him to succeed as he matriculated to high school.



## Tommy Fibich

*Founding Partner, Fibich, Leebron, Copeland, Briggs, & Josephson*

**Why I serve:** The amazing goodness The Joy School does cannot be measured nor properly exalted. It is simply one of this great city's greatest assets.

**How I found TJS:** It was despair over a non-achieving granddaughter that necessitated our search for help. The Joy School was the answer we so badly needed, and, upon reflection, I now know it was divine providence that took us there.



## Gil Goodrich

*Chairman and CEO, Goodrich Petroleum Corporation*

**Why I serve:** The Joy School and its Board are important to me because of my personal understanding of children with dyslexia and learning differences, as well as my son Olivier being a TJS alumnus.

**How I found TJS:** We found TJS through our search of local schools specializing in teaching children with learning differences.



## Andrew Hayes

*Partner, Russell Reynolds Associates*

**Why I serve:** Our son, Harrison, attended the School for three years, and TJS had a profound impact on his life.

Harrison was diagnosed with dyslexia in kindergarten, and it pained us to see him struggle as he tried to learn how to read and write. He joined The Joy School family in first grade, and TJS quickly set him on the right track. Harrison thrived at TJS and has excelled in all aspects of his life ever since. My wife Trish and I are forever grateful to the School for turning Harrison's life around. My service on the Board is my small way of giving back to the School that has given us and other families so much!

**How I found TJS:** The Joy School was recommended to us by another TJS family. We were seeking a school that could help our son, Harrison, with his special needs. TJS was the perfect solution!



## Andrea Johnson

*Senior Director, Kane Russell Coleman & Logan PC*

**Why I serve:** I am looking forward to beginning my service on the Board. Our daughter greatly benefited from her Joy School education, for which we are forever grateful.

**How I found TJS:** We found TJS in our search for a school that could serve our daughter's needs.



### **George Joseph**

*Former CEO and owner of The Right Step Addictions Program and a partner at Common Bond Bakery and Café, Mockingbird Bistro and Lightning Step Electronic Medical Records*

**Why I serve:** I feel honored to be part of The Joy School's Board. The work of the School is life-changing and critically important to Houston and the families it serves. I want to help the Board continue its mission in any way I can.

**How I found TJS:** My nine-year-old son Ethan has been attending The Joy School for two years. Ethan's progress and enrichment have been priceless. He loves going to school each day.



### **Mark Kelly**

*Head of School, Annunciation Orthodox School*

**Why I serve:** I believe in the mission of The Joy School, as it serves a population of students who need the attention, care and expertise Joy can provide for them.

**How I found TJS:** I know about The Joy School because I work in education.



### **Catherine Lappe**

*Senior Manager – Auditing, Ernst & Young LLP*

**Why I serve:** I believe in advancing the mission of our daughter's school by volunteering and serving as Finance Chair on the Board.

**How I found TJS:** We found the School after good friends recommended it to us.



### **Joanne Margraves**

*Chief Financial Officer, The Kinkaid School*

**Why I serve:** Serving on the Board allows me to give back to a school that has made a life-changing difference for our family.

**How I found TJS:** We found TJS when we were looking for a school for our daughter who was struggling academically.



### **Tom McClung**

*Manager – Royalty & Tax, Chevron*

**Why I serve:** I believe in the School and the mission and feel there is a growing need in the community for the services the School provides.

**How I found TJS:** We discovered TJS when we were struggling to find a middle school for our son. The public school programs for ASD kids were under-developed at the time, and Dr. Susan Costin recommended we look at TJS. The individualized attention he received was key to his success.



### **Michael Morfey**

*Trial Lawyer and Partner, Andrews Kurth LLP*

**Why I serve:** I believe very strongly in The Joy School's mission. I've seen the mission's positive effect on my entire family through the education and growth of our son, Danny. Hopefully, my serving on the Board advances the mission so more students and families can experience the same.

**How I found TJS:** My wife Lisa and I were searching for a school that delivered top quality education in a caring environment that was tailored to the needs of our son. A friend recommended TJS. We toured the School and instantly knew we had found what we were looking for.



### **Steven Murray**

*Leadership Executive*

**Why I serve:** I give back to this organization because it helped our youngest son succeed academically and to help ensure the School is able to provide the same support to other children.

**How I found TJS:** We came across The Joy School when we were at our wit's end trying to find a place that could help our undoubtedly bright six-year-old succeed when he was failing so badly in the public arena.



### **Gwynne Shackelford**

*Chief Investment Strategist, BBVA Compass Global Wealth*

**Why I serve:** I'm looking forward to serving on the Board at a school that made a tremendous difference for our daughter and our entire family throughout her six years at TJS.

**How I found TJS:** We found TJS after visiting another special school that didn't seem quite right for our daughter. They recommended we visit TJS, and it was the perfect fit.



### **Kirby Shanks**

*President and Chief Investment Officer, Kanos Capital Management*

**Why I serve:** Our daughter Olivia attended The Joy School, and TJS helped her so much. I felt compelled to give back to the School with my time and expertise.

**How I found TJS:** We knew Patti Melcher, Co-Founder of The Joy School. She and our support network suggested The Joy School as a place for our daughter Olivia. After visiting the School, we were immediately convinced it was the place for her.



### **Lisa Stone**

*Community Leader and Volunteer*

**Why I serve:** By serving on the Board, I hope to help the School grow in its pursuit of excellence in helping children with learning differences successfully navigate the classroom

on their own terms. Houston needs TJS. I want to make sure it remains an option for Houston families when they have a child who needs individualized curriculum to get back on track. Connor attended third and fourth grade at TJS, during which his confidence soared and his approach to school totally changed. He just finished his first year of college and plans to major in petroleum engineering.

**How I found TJS:** We found The Joy School back in 2005 when my son Connor needed a new academic pathway and boost.



### **Meg Toups**

*Founder and CEO, BlueSky IT Partners*

**Why I serve:** I believe in the mission and have witnessed firsthand the impact of the teaching and the learning philosophy of TJS. I serve to help grow and improve the School so other kids have the same opportunity as our daughter.

**How I found TJS:** The School was recommended to us by a former parent.



### **Ellen Welsh**

*Founding Principal, Nehemiah Middle School*

**Why I serve:** I am enthusiastic about joining TJS's strategic Board and working for the enduring success of the School.

**How I found TJS:** When The Joy School opened its doors to students in 1997, I was Head of Presbyterian School and soon realized TJS provided hope and services that were scarce or non-existent for many of Houston's brightest children.