

## **Sarah Carlson**

Managing Director

Orlando Chapter of Blessings in a Backpack

Sarah G. Carlson, MNM, CFRE is a certified nonprofit fundraising executive who brings more than a decade of experience in areas ranging from community relations to development and communications. Carlson currently serves as Managing Director for Blessings in a Backpack Orlando.

Blessings in a Backpack Orlando is part of a national network of Blessings in a Backpack chapters that mobilize communities, individuals, and resources to provide food on the weekends for school-aged children. The Orlando chapter serves 37 schools in Orange, Seminole and Osceola counties.

In her role, Carlson oversees the organization's development, volunteer, and programming efforts. In less than three years, she expanded the organization's reach from 2,000 to 5,4000 students who are provided food each weekend during the school year.

She previously served with the American Cancer Society in Winter Park, Fla. where she grew the organization's revenue by more than 15 percent. Carlson has also held leadership roles with PACE Center for Girls - Jacksonville, Special Olympics Florida, Lighthouse Central Florida and March of Dimes. In 2022, she was recognized by the Winter Park Chamber of Commerce as Ambassador of the Year.

Carlson earned a master's degree in nonprofit management from Regis University and bachelor's degree in advertising from the University of Georgia. She also holds a certificate in Grant Proposal Writing and a certificate in Fundraising and Development from the Rollins College Philanthropy & Nonprofit Leadership Center.