

MARGO ARNOLD

Community Engagement
Coordinator

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As Community Engagement Coordinator for the Center for Family Voice, Margo supports the implementation and execution of Center activities and the Center's work to elevate the voices of families with young children in early childhood policy and advocacy to achieve programmatic, policy, and practice changes at local, regional, and state levels.

A product of early childhood learning initiatives, Margo began her education through Head Start programming in Toledo, Ohio. Through a family move to Columbus, Ohio, she continued excelling in her school-age years in Columbus City Schools, so much so that she was the benefactor of another education equity initiative known as the Seniors to Sophomores program. Through this public-private partnership, Margo applied and was selected to forgo her senior year at Eastmoor Academy and instead, through dual enrollment, attended Ohio Dominican University (ODU) for one year at no cost.

This opportunity propelled Margo so much that she stayed at ODU for a second year as a Chemistry major. Through recalling memorable experiences serving as the Youth Missions leader at New Salem Baptist Church and participating in the YWCA Bright Futures Program, Margo realized that her heart was more connected to developing communities than pursuing chemistry. So, she took a leap and transferred to the John Glenn School of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University, ultimately earning a Bachelor of Arts in Public Affairs with a specialization in Community Organization and Civic Engagement.

With the endless paths of community engagement, Margo wasn't sure if she'd pursue ministry, become a missionary, or continue in higher education. Rather than choose, Margo did

all three, taking classes at Ashland Seminary and continuing to serve as the Life Development Department Assistant supporting youth, missions, and higher education initiatives at her church.

Seeking to further explore Central Ohio's needs, Margo then joined the launch of AmeriCorps' Ohio Math Corps. As an AmeriCorps member, she provided reading intervention for students in Kindergarten through grade five. At the culmination of her service term, Margo's community volunteering opened the door for new positions for her in launching community initiatives at Asian American Community Services, Think Make Live Youth, and Mental Health America of Ohio.

As the pandemic hit and volunteerism stalled, Margo started her own business to virtually support nonprofits, entrepreneurs, and business owners as they scaled. She found success and continues to do this on an as-needed basis. During this time, Margo also supported Catholic Social Services to help re-launch the AmeriCorps Seniors' Senior Companion Program post-Covid. It proved to be another rewarding opportunity to learn about advocacy and engagement, including the opportunity to become the Professional Development Co-Chair for the Volunteer Administrators' Network of Central Ohio.

Margo is passionate about reaching and impacting children and families through the Center for Family Voice. In her free time, she enjoys attending concerts, spending time with her nieces and nephews, and trying out new recipes and restaurants.

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