



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Joining The Vera French Foundation Board of Directors ~

WHAT IS THE VERA FRENCH FOUNDATION?

Our mission is to foster compassionate awareness of mental illness in our community and to inspire generous giving.

As a subsidiary of the nonprofit Vera French Community Mental Health Center (CMHC), our goal is to provide strategic leverage & liquidity through planned gifts, grants, legislative advocacy, major gifts, events, and annual gifts.

As a 501(c)(3) public charity, the Vera French Foundation strives to operate each day with honesty, fairness, professionalism, and good humor.

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?

The monthly Foundation Board meeting is the 2nd Tuesday starting at 11:45 am.

All Foundation meetings are hybrid with an in-person option generally at the VF Clinic at Duck Creek (852 Middle Road in Bettendorf, Iowa) or via Zoom.

All Foundation Board members are encouraged to attend the Vera French Gala in October of each year.

IS A FINANCIAL GIFT REQUIRED?

No gift of money is ever required

Our philosophy is gifts express goodwill, generosity, and belief in Vera French's essential mission of providing high-quality and accessible mental health services to all in the Quad Cities. We don't believe gifts should be given out of obligation, as such, there is no required annual gift.

We do humbly ask our Board members to consider the Vera French Foundation in both their annual giving to charity as well as their estate planning if mental health for all is a passion area.

WILL I HAVE TO ASK FOR MONEY?

No. There is never an expectation that Board members ask others for gifts.

While the Foundation Executive Director will assist Board members who are comfortable asking, there is never an expectation.

There is no "one-size-fits-all" way to be a member of the Foundation Board member. We celebrate & appreciate volunteers with diverse experiences & skills.

Vera French Foundation ~ Established 1985

VF Clinic at Duck Creek
852 Middle Road | Suite 302 | Bettendorf, Iowa

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WHO IS ON THE FOUNDATION BOARD?

You would be joining a group of volunteers who believe strongly that mental health matters for every person. Our volunteer Board members have a passion for evidence-based mental healthcare and the healthy living solutions which help Vera French's clients, patients, residents, and tenants move forward to achieve each person's individualized life goals.

A list of our current Board members is included with these FAQs.

HOW LONG WOULD MY TERM BE?

Under our Vera French Foundation bylaws, Board member terms are three (3) years with ongoing renewals at future Annual Meetings.

WHEN WOULD MY TERM BEGIN?

As a member of the Foundation Board Class of FY26, terms will begin at the Vera French Annual Meeting held on Wednesday November 12, 2025.

DOES THE FOUNDATION HAVE STAFF?

Yes. The Vera French Foundation has a full-time Executive Director. The Executive Director position is overseen jointly by the Executive Committee of the Vera French Foundation and the Vera French Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) CEO (who also serves on the Foundation's Executive Committee).

Day-to-day entries into the Foundation general ledger is a duty segregated from the Foundation Executive Director. This function is overseen by the CMHC CFO and the Vera French Finance Office. The Vera French CFO also supervises the Foundation's annual 3rd party financial audit.

Additional professional services are provided by the CMHC Executive Coordinator and CMHC Marketing Committee.



IS THERE A FOUNDATION OFFICE?

Yes. We are fortunate to have newly renovated office space on the 3rd floor of the VF Clinic at Duck Creek (pictured here) ~



WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP?

If you are interested in being considered to join the Vera French Foundation Board of Directors, please scan here and complete a brief online application form to start the process.



**YOUR TIME IS A GIFT ~ THANK YOU
FOR CONSIDERING SHARING IT
WITH OUR FOUNDATION!**

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Vera French Foundation

Board of Directors



Officers & Executive Committee

Jean Friemel, JD
Stengel, Bailey & Robertson, P.C
Foundation President

Erin Daniel, PHR, SHRM-CP
Nestle Purina
Foundation Vice President

Austin Ziegler
Russell Construction & Development
Foundation Secretary
(Foundation Class of FY24)

Mark Gray
Crawford Company
Foundation Treasurer
(Foundation Class of FY23)

Richard K. Whitaker, Jr. PhD
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Vera French Community Mental Health Center

Nathan Sondgeroth, JD
Executive Director – Vera French Foundation
Director of Strategic Initiatives (Vera French)

Korinne Betker
Executive Coordinator & Marketing Manager
Vera French Community Mental Health Center

Board of Directors Members

Kyle Day, JD, CPA
Rock River Family Office
Foundation Class of FY24

Jenelle Wolbers, EDFP
REDEEM
Foundation Class of FY24

Brian McKenrick
Deere & Company
Foundation Class of FY25

Kassandra McKown
Schnell & Hancock
Foundation Class of FY25

Melissa Morse, AIA NCARB
Streamline Architects
Foundation Class of FY25

VACANT
Foundation Class of FY25

Denise Beenk
Ex Officio
Chief Operating Officer (COO)
Vera French Community Mental Health Center

Jill Westoff
Ex Officio
Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
Vera French Community Mental Health Center

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