

16TH ANNUAL ULSTERCORPS SERVICE SUMMIT - SPEAKER BIOS:

Michael Berg has a BA from Brooklyn College and Masters in Ancient Greek from the University of Pennsylvania. He has provided leadership to Family of Woodstock since a little after it started, for eleven years as a volunteer and since as its Executive Director. Prior, he ran a woodworking business in Saugerties.

Chef Dave Dunn is Executive Chef at Dutchess Outreach. With more than 20 years of experience as a Food Service Director for local school districts, Chef Dave has spent his career making sure kids had access to healthy, nourishing meals. His deep knowledge of food service operations, menu planning, and large-scale meal preparation ensures that the Dutchess Outreach kitchen runs smoothly—even on the busiest days. He joined Dutchess Outreach because, in his words, “*it is an honor to serve the underserved.*” Every meal he helps prepare is rooted in dignity, care, and the belief that good food should be shared by all. Known for his big laugh, generous spirit, and the ability to turn a busy kitchen into a place of teamwork and joy, Chef Dave is a cornerstone of the Lunch Box and food access programs. His leadership keeps our meals not only consistent, but also comforting—reminding our community that they are seen, valued, and always welcome at the table.

Christine Hein is the Executive Director of People’s Place, a 54-year-old nonprofit rooted in Kingston and serving residents throughout Ulster County. During her 14 years of leadership, she has guided the organization through transformative growth—expanding its services from four programs to more than twenty, including the creation of the Community Café and the Wellness Empowerment Center. Under her stewardship, People’s Place now provides over 1.5 million meals annually and serves as a critical social safety net for more than 11,000 local households. A lifelong Ulster County resident, Christine is deeply committed to community service and is an active member in several community-based organizations.

Amanda Henson is Co-Executive Director of Poughkeepsie Farm Project, with a focus on Educational Programs and Food Systems — where food meets community and learning. **Maddie Schmutz** manages their CSA and volunteer program on the farm. Poughkeepsie Farm Project began in 1999 as a small community farm with a commitment to education and food justice on 3 acres of reawakened farmland leased from Vassar College. The farm has expanded to 12 acres and over 500 households take part in our CSA. We are leaders in cutting edge practices in today’s sustainable agriculture. We harvest over 180,000 pounds of produce per year and donate over 30,000 pounds of it to those in need in our community. In addition to our food cultivation, we train and educate the community on healthy growing and eating practices year round.

Stephanie Kearns is the President and CEO of the United Way of Ulster County, where she leads initiatives focused on volunteerism, partnership development, and improving service access for vulnerable communities. With more than 17 years of nonprofit leadership experience, she has a track record of strengthening organizations, building collaborative networks, and aligning resources to meet critical community needs. Her background includes leadership roles in large social service organizations and education, where she advanced operations, crisis management, and community engagement strategies. Stephanie also serves as an elected member of the Kingston City School District Board of Education, reflecting her deep commitment to public service and local impact. Passionate about supporting children and families, she is dedicated to mobilizing volunteers and driving community-centered solutions that create lasting change.

Kristin Kessler is the Director of Community Health for the Ulster County Department of Health, where she leads a division that provides public health education, community engagement, and communications to keep Ulster County healthy. A registered dietitian nutritionist with 15 years of experience, she has worked across nonprofit, government, and communications sectors — from teaching SNAP-Ed nutrition workshops to directing a \$1.525M state-funded healthy living initiative for the City of Kingston. Born into the rich culinary traditions of New Orleans, Kristin deeply believes that access to nourishing food is a right, not a privilege, and is committed to building a food system where everyone gets not just what they need, but also *lagniappe* — the little bonuses that make life extra sweet.

Tony Marmo is the President of Normann Staffing, located in Kingston, New York. Normann Staffing serves businesses and candidates in Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, Greene, Columbia and Sullivan counties. Previously, Tony was employed by The Kingston Hospital in Kingston, New York for 23 years, serving as CEO for 9 years. He also has been employed in the long-term care field for 9 years, having served as the Administrator for 3 Skilled Nursing Facilities Tony has a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Pace University and a master’s degree in public administration from Long Island University. He currently serves on the board of the

Hudson Valley Pattern For Progress, and the Kingston Loan Development Corporation. He also currently co-hosts the Common Unity Ulster podcast with Reverend Donald Mapes of Kingston. He has served on non profit boards in the Hudson Valley since 1982.

Scott Minkoff is Director of the Benjamin Center for Public Policy Initiatives at SUNY New Paltz, a research center focused on applied policy research benefiting the Hudson Valley and New York State. He is also an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science and International Relations. At the Benjamin Center, he oversees regional partnerships, public programming, and faculty-student research collaborations connecting academic work to policy and community impact.

Stiles Najac, Food Security Champion: Connecting Farms and Communities. For 20 years, Stiles has been a passionate food access advocate. In her role as Food Security Program Manager at Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange County, she builds connections between local food producers and food access programs in the Hudson Valley. Her biggest initiative is the GleanMobile, a highly successful program that recovers and distributes over 500,000 pounds of fresh, local fruits and vegetables annually.

Sarah Salem (They/Them) is a food systems strategist and network convener dedicated to advancing regional food security and equity through a nature-based, systems-thinking lens. As founder of the Hudson Valley Food Systems Coalition, they convene over 100 stakeholders across agriculture, policy, emergency food, and community development to foster collaboration, pilot innovative programs, and shape regional food system strategies. Salem's work focuses on designing and implementing equitable food access initiatives, including farm-to-community aggregation and distribution models that strengthen connections between regional farmers and communities. Drawing on a multidisciplinary background, they integrate ecological principles with practical program design, centering alignment across infrastructure, policy, and community voice to ensure locally grounded solutions that expand food access, strengthen regional economies, and drive lasting transformational change.

Dina Suggs serves as Ulster County's Chief Diversity Officer. Appointed in 2025 she is responsible for leading the County's equity and inclusion initiatives. She previously led the Office of Analytics in the Bureau of Global Public Affairs, and the New York City based Office of International Visitors at the U.S. Department of State. Dina's family publishes the St. Louis American Newspaper known as the city's "Voice of the African American Community". She was on the team that launched the Discovery Channel in Latin American and the Caribbean. Dina is a City of Kingston Arts Commissioner and serves on the Land in Black Hands (Kingston Land Trust) steering committee.

Kathleen (kt) Tobin, PhD, is a SUNY New Paltz alumna (Sociology '92) and Benjamin Scholar at the Benjamin Center for Public Policy Initiatives at SUNY New Paltz where she conducts regional and statewide applied social research aimed at informing the public discourse and decision making. She leads the Benjamin Center's Cost of Living project, an initiative that was launched in 2025 and has to date published reports on baseline affordability, food insecurity, and utility costs in the four-county area of Dutchess, Orange, Sullivan, and Ulster.

Dominique Wallace-Mills is the Director of Social Service Programs for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) at the Ulster County Department of Social Services). Dominique has an undergraduate degree in Forensic Psychology from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and a Master of Social Work from Fordham University. She has spent the last 20+ years in service to communities that are underrepresented and marginalized. After a career in not-for-profit service (homeless housing, rental/utility assistance and operating food pantries), her dedication to serving vulnerable populations led her to DSS where she serves Ulster County residents with both professionalism and empathy.

Kristen Wilson, Deputy Director of Planning for Ulster County, has extensive experience in planning, managing projects, securing grant funding, and cultivating partnerships for community health. She formerly worked at RUPCO as Vice President of Community Development and as the City of Kingston's Director of Grants Management where she managed funds and projects in the areas of transportation, waterfront resiliency, sewer infrastructure, the environment, housing, fire safety, community development, and public health. Previously, Kristen worked at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County. In that role, she directed several public health-related initiatives and guided the formation of the Live Well Kingston Commission. She has volunteered for Kingston's Complete Street Advisory Council, Climate Smart and Live Well Kingston Commissions, and for Kingston Land Trust and TapRoot Community Land Trust Board of Directors. Kristen has a Masters from the Bard Center for Environmental Policy.