



## **BIOGRAPHY FOR LAURA J. VACCARO**

Laura Vaccaro is the new CEO of the Kronkosky Charitable Foundation (KCF), overseeing all operations for a perpetual charitable trust established by Albert and Bessie Mae Kronkosky and administered by Corporate Trustee Bank of America. Its founders created the Foundation with a mission “*to produce profound good that is tangible and measurable in Bandera, Bexar, Comal and Kendall counties in Texas.*” With more than \$400 million in assets and an annual grant distribution of \$15-\$20 million, Laura and her team are responsible for establishing grantmaking and strategic priorities in concert with a 3-person Distribution Committee. In her role as CEO, she also manages operates a San Antonio based office operation with an annual operating budget of \$4 million and a team of 10 professional staff members. As a CEO of one of the largest grant-making organizations in the state of Texas, she interacts with the community and represents the Kronkosky Charitable Foundation and its mission in a variety of civic and philanthropic capacities daily. Since its inception 25 years ago, KCF has distributed more than \$350 million to over 500 nonprofit organizations in Texas.

Prior to KCF, Laura served as Vice President for Community Investment and Engagement for Valero Energy for almost 10 years, where she led all community investment activities of the Valero Energy Foundation and Valero Energy Corporation. Laura also had responsibility for employee community engagement strategies through her oversight of the Valero Volunteerism programming and Community Events schedule. Prior to this role, she served for 12 years as Executive Director of Learning Education and Development for Valero, where she directed all leadership development and e-learning initiatives, as well as general professional development strategies for Valero’s 10,000+ employees throughout the United States, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Peru, Mexico and Canada. Prior to Valero, Laura worked for 12 years in the healthcare industry, gaining extensive management experience in marketing and public relations, events and project management, physician relations and hospital operations. In addition, Laura served five years as an adjunct faculty member for University of the Incarnate Word, teaching Management and Marketing curriculum.

An active member of the San Antonio community, Ms. Vaccaro is committed volunteer and a proud alumnus and former steering committee member of Leadership San Antonio (Class 35, Class 37). She served in 2023 and will serve again in 2024 as the Chair for the Greater Chamber's Tribute to Women Business Leaders. In 2020 she was the Chair for the Go RED for Women Campaign benefitting the American Heart Association and raised over \$500k. She has most recently been named to the Board of Directors for her Alma Mater, Gannon University, and the Board of Directors for United Texas, where she serves as Secretary.

From 2016-19 she served as the Chair for Women United (WU), a women's affinity within United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County. During her tenure, over \$10M in leadership gifts were raised for United Way and the childcare scholarship fund. Laura has served on the United Way Board of Trustees and Executive Committee for the past 7 years and leads the HR and Diversity Committee. Laura previously served on the Women United Global Leadership Council representing United Way of San Antonio within the United Way Worldwide organization. She has actively served United Way in a variety of capacities as a member of the United Way Women's Leadership Council (WLC) 2015-16 Advisory Board, member of the San Antonio Campaign Cabinet in 2015 and 2016 where she led the Metro and the Nonprofit Agency employee campaigns for the city of San Antonio, collectively raising almost \$2 million for United Way agencies.

Laura recently completed a 9-year term for National Board of Directors for the Multiple Sclerosis Society and 15-year term for the Board of Trustees for the South-Central Region of the National MS Society. During her tenure she served as the Governance Chair, Nominating Chair, and the Community Leadership Advisory committee member. She was a top fundraiser for the BIKE MS San Antonio event for 21 years and was inducted into the 2015 NMSS Hall of Fame for fundraising over \$200k for MS. Her lifetime fundraising reached \$365,000. She received the Janet Croce Excellence Award in 2015 for her service to the society, and in 2018 received the Hope Award as part of the Tribute to Women Business Leaders sponsored by the Ford Foundation and San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. Laura was inducted into the 2018 San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame for her contributions in Civic Leadership. Laura was also named the Comet Award winner in 2018 during the San Antonio Women's Chamber of Commerce Constellation of Stars Gala. In October of 2019, Laura was honored by the Harlequin Feel Good Movement with an OutStander Award for her work as a Community Catalyst for Women United. In her spare time, Laura serves on a variety of charitable gala committees including Tobin Center, the Witte Museum and was recently honored by Essence Prep during their Dream Week gala.

A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Ms. Vaccaro has now happily claimed San Antonio as home for the past 34 years. She and her husband, Ricardo of 20 years have two dogs, Milo and Mila, two granddaughters, Victoria (5 yrs), Marta (1.5 year) 2 grandsons, Rene Jr., (2 years), Ricardo (2 months) and 4 beautiful bonus children, Evita (43 yrs), Sergio (42 yrs), Jorge (41 yrs) and Marcela (37).

Laura holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Gannon University, and a Masters in Business Administration from the University of the Incarnate Word.