



KATHRYN FIRMIN-SELLERS

President & CEO

Kathryn Firmin-Sellers is currently serving United Way of Greater Charlotte as President and CEO. Formerly, as Chief Impact Officer and Executive Vice-President, Kathryn led the organization's community impact strategy, focusing on advancing racial equity and empowering previously disinvested communities while also providing basic needs support across our four- county region.

Since joining United Way in 2018, Kathryn develops strategic impact plans, navigates key issues and works tirelessly with partners in the philanthropic, corporate, nonprofit and government sectors to increase economic mobility.

Kathryn also leads efforts to implement "A Home For All," the first comprehensive effort to address housing instability and homelessness in our community involving the public, private and non-profit sectors.

In 2020, Kathryn was instrumental in working with other community leaders to establish the COVID-19 Response Fund, coordinated by United Way and The Foundation For The Carolinas. Nearly \$24 million was raised and distributed to 237 local nonprofits to help those affected by the pandemic with basic needs such as childcare, education, housing, food, emergency financial assistance, legal advocacy, health and more.

Prior to her current role at United Way, Kathryn spent 11 years with Safe Alliance, where she served as the agency's chief operating officer and led strategic planning and program evaluation efforts, in addition to leading and managing Safe Alliance's domestic violence shelter. Kathryn also led a restructuring of the organization's programs and services, which included the development of data-driven strategic goals and a process evaluation framework to monitor implementation.

Kathryn was a senior relationship manager for United Way of Greater Charlotte from 2005-2007, leading the relationship between United Way and its community partners and volunteers in the Mooresville/Lake Norman area.

Kathryn previously served in roles with the Lake Norman Community Development Council and the Davidson Partnership for Children and Families after beginning her career as an associate professor at Indiana University.

Kathryn earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Carleton College and a master's degree and doctorate in political science from Duke University. She is married and has two adult children.