

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Children's Theatre Company Welcomes New Board Leadership and Members

**Minneapolis, Minn.**—Children's Theatre Company (CTC) announced today that **Silvia M. Perez** has been elected by the Board of Directors to serve as the theatre's Chair of the Board of Directors. Professionally, Perez serves as the President of 3M Commercial Solutions Division. She has served on CTC's board for five years including three years a Vice Chair. Also elected was **Stefanie Adams** as Co-Vice Chair (Principal, Director of Client Services and Marketing, Peregrine), **Steven J. Thompson** as Co-Vice Chair (Community Leader, Northstar Healthcare Advisors), **Adebisi Wilson** as Co-Vice Chair (Partner, Ward & Wilson, P.C.), **George Montague** as Treasurer (Chief Financial Officer, Nuwellis, Inc.), and **John W. Geelan** as Secretary (General Counsel and Secretary, Piper Sandler Companies).

"CTC's mission to 'educate, challenge, and inspire' truly resonates with the times and with me," stated Board Chair **Silvia M. Perez**. "A healthy conversation across generations and diverse audiences is key to building a stronger community, and what could be more appropriate than facilitating that through world class theatre and education programs. I consider this appointment a genuine honor, a privilege, and an immense responsibility, and am confident that with the support of our amazing staff and board of directors, I can be the champion this organization deserves."

Additionally, CTC has announced nine, dynamic leaders as new board members including **Jamie Candee** (Chief Executive Officer, Edmentum), **Scott Cummings** (Market Development Director, Accenture), **Danielle Duzan** (Vice President, Human Resources, Polaris), **Isa Loundon Flaherty** (Senior Public Relations Manager, Microsoft), **Ellie Krug** (Founder and President, Human Inspiration Works, LLC), **Wendy Mahling** (Senior Vice President, Corporate Secretary & Securities and Corporate Law, Ameriprise Financial), **Hillery Shay** (Vice President Marketing & Communications, Children's Minnesota), **Tanya M. Taylor** (Executive Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary, Radisson Hospitality Inc.), and **Hannah Yankelevich** (Partner, McKinsey & Co.).

"We are thrilled to bring this incredible group of leaders to the Board of Directors for CTC who were enthusiastically approved by members," remarked **Anne Lockner**, Co-Chair of the Governance Committee. "The broad range of lived and work experiences represented in these new members further diversifies the expertise, life skills, and perspectives that we value in our Board and organization," stated **Kate Kelly**, Co-Chair of the Governance Committee.

### 2022 – 2023 Children's Theatre Company's Board of Directors

**Officers**

**Silvia M. Perez, Chair** | President, 3M Commercial Solutions Division

**Stefanie Adams, Vice Chair** | Principal, Director of Client Service and Marketing, Peregrine

**Steven J. Thompson, Vice Chair** | Community Leader, NorthStar Healthcare Advisors

**Adebisi Wilson, Vice Chair** | Partner, Ward & Wilson, P.C.

**George Montague, Treasurer** |, Chief Financial Officer, Nuwellis, Inc.

**John W. Geelan, Secretary** | General Counsel & Secretary, Piper Sandler Companies

### **Members**

**Kelly Baker** | Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer, Thrivent

**Tomme Beevas** | Founder and Chief Strategic Officer, Pimento Jamaican Kitchen

**Ellen Bendel-Stenzel, MD** | Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, and Science

**Michael Blum** | Vice President, Assistant General Counsel, Stanley Black and Decker, Inc.

**Amanda Brinkman** | CEO and Chief Creative Officer, Sunshine Studios

**Morgan Burns** | Partner, Faegre Drinker

**Jamie Candee** | Chief Executive Officer, Edmentum

**Joe Carroll** | SVP, U.S. Bank

**Jodi Chu** | Chief Financial Officer, Chu Vision Institute

**Scott Cummings** | Market Development Director, Accenture

**Peter Diessner** | President, Kraus-Anderson Realty & Development Companies

**Amol Dixit** | Director, GWorks Venture Studio, General Mills, Founder, Hot Indian Foods

**Danielle Duzan** | Vice President, Human Resources, Polaris

**Ben Eklo** | Chief Financial Officer, UnitedHealthcare Medicare and Retirement

**Meredith Englund** | Chief Operations Officer, Carbon Origins

**Isa Loundon Flaherty** | Senior Public Relations Manager, Microsoft

**Bob Frenzel** | Chairman, CEO, Xcel Energy

**Andy Gorski** | Vice President of Brand and Promotional Marketing, Best Buy

**Conor Green** | Partner, TT Capital Partners

**Lili Hall** | President and CEO, KNOCK, Inc.

**Maria Hemsley** | Community Leader

**Andy Ho** | Principal, Deloitte

**Hoyt Hsiao** | President and CEO, Shaw-Lundquist Assoc. Inc.

**Dominic Iannazzo** | Partner, Ernst & Young LLP

**Kate Kelly** | Regional President, Minnesota, PNC Bank

**ellie krug** | Founder and President, Human Inspiration Works, LLC

**Chad M. Larsen** | Realtor, Berg Larsen Group of Coldwell Banker Realty

**Anne M. Lockner** | Partner, Robins Kaplan LLP

**Mary Loeffelholz** | Vice President, Airport Customer Service, MSP, Delta

**Trisha London** | Community Leader and Counselor, Crisis Text Line

**Wendy Mahling** | Senior Vice President, Corporate Secretary & Securities and Corporate Law, Ameriprise Financial

**Kelly Miller** | Executive Director, J.P. Morgan Private Bank

**Sonny Miller** | Partner, Dorsey & Whitney

**Jeb A. Myers** | Interim-President, Cristo Rey Tampa Salesian High School

**Thor Nelson** | Chief Financial Officer, Aspen Waste Systems

**Nnamdi Njoku** | SVP & President, Medtronic Neuromodulation

**Amanda Norman** | Community Leader

**Doug Parish** | Community Leader

**Angela Pennington** | Community Leader

**Maria Wagner Reamer** | Community Leader

**Craig E. Samitt, M.D.** | Managing Director, ITO Advisors

**Chris Schermer** | President, SCHERMER

**Noreen Sedgeman** | Shareholder, Winthrop & Weinstine P.A.

**Hillery Shay** | Vice President Marketing & Communications, Children's Minnesota

**Wendy Skjerven** | Vice President, Corporate Secretary and Group General Counsel, Travelers

**Anne E. Stavney** | Head of School, The Blake School

**Tanya M. Taylor** | Executive Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary, Radisson Hospitality Inc.

**David Van Benschoten** | Shareholder, The Advocate Group

**Hannah Yankelevich** | Partner, McKinsey & Co.

**Kashi Yoshikawa** | Senior Regional Investment Manager, Wells Fargo Private Bank

**Mike Zechmeister** | Chief Financial Officer, C.H. Robinson

### Lifetime Board Members

**Mary Lou Dasburg**

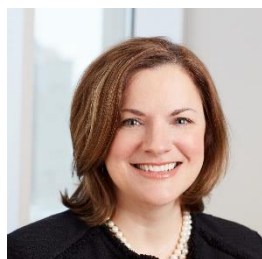
**Topsy Simonson**

### BOARD OFFICER BIOS



**Silvia M. Perez, Chair** is President, 3M Commercial Solutions Division. Silvia began her 3M career more than 20 years ago in Uruguay (her home country) as a Regulatory Affairs Specialist, responsible for commercializing new pharmaceutical therapies and medical products. Within just a few years, Silvia rose in the organization with positions of increasing leadership in Regulatory, Manufacturing and Business management across Latin America. In 1997, she moved to 3M headquarters in St. Paul, Minnesota, where she led Medical Operations, Technical Service, International and general Business functions in the Pharmaceutical, Medical and Infection Prevention divisions. In 2014, Silvia was appointed General Manager of 3M's Food Safety business, which leverages 3M technology to produce tools used by food companies to ensure safety and quality, and protect their valuable brands. By providing strategic vision, focused leadership and creative passion, Silvia and her team delivered double-digit growth for 10 consecutive quarters. Silvia was appointed Vice President and General Manager in 2016, leading 3M's Drug Delivery Systems Division, which partners with leading pharmaceutical companies to make inhalers and transdermal patches that deliver medicine effectively and conveniently to patients suffering from asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and other serious health maladies. One of Silvia's key strengths is leading transformational change throughout organizations – challenging her teams to think bigger in order to find new and more effective ways to connect with customers – and to help them advance 3M's drive for continuous innovation.

As a trained pharmacist (she holds a B.S. degree in Pharmaceuticals from the University of Uruguay) and proven entrepreneur (prior to 3M she started and ran a successful consumer products company), Silvia has a deep understanding of the pharmaceutical and medical industries and the impact that breakthrough devices can have on improved patient outcomes.



**Stefanie Adams, Vice Chair** joined Peregrine in 2003 and serves as Principal and Director of Client Service and Marketing with a focus on fostering relationships with the firm's institutional client base and developing new business relationships. She is a member of Peregrine's Board of Directors. Prior to joining Peregrine, Stefanie served as Director of Marketing for NorthShore Advisors. Previously she was a Principal of RBC Dain Rauscher Wessels responsible for advising management teams as to appropriate trading, asset management and hedging strategies. Before joining RBC Dain Rauscher Wessels, Stefanie served as Vice President for Insight Investment Management (now Voyager Asset Management), Dain Rauscher's asset management arm. While at Insight, she was responsible for developing and managing several of the firm's institutional client relationships in the Midwest and Pacific Northwest regions. Stefanie began her career in the investment industry at Piper Capital Management, where she served as Manager, Consultant Relations. Stefanie holds a BS degree from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service.



**Steven J. Thompson, Vice Chair** is an independent healthcare consultant and the former Senior Vice President and Chief Business Development Officer at Brigham Health in Boston. He is also the co-founder and CEO of Global HealthCare insights (GHCI), a magazine and advisory service connecting the U.S. healthcare industry to global needs and opportunities. He previously served as the founding CEO of Johns Hopkins Medicine International and senior vice president of Johns Hopkins Medicine. Steve is a recognized pioneer and leader in the fields of global collaborative healthcare and international patient care, and one of the world's leading experts on developing and strengthening high-quality, better-value healthcare systems around the globe. His articles on healthcare globalization have appeared in the Harvard Business Review, Chicago Tribune, Modern Healthcare, and many other publications. His blog at Global HealthCare Insights covers developments in and perspectives on the U.S. and international healthcare fields, and especially on U.S. healthcare involvement in Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and Africa. Steve is a widely consulted authority on numerous healthcare topics.



**Adebisi Wilson, Vice Chair** is a partner with Ward & Wilson, a law firm that specializes in litigation, family law, and investigations. Adebisi has strived in her professional endeavors to be a voice of the unheard. She began her career in HR consulting, supporting companies in their affirmative action reporting and designing and executing inclusion and diversity training. In her law practice, Adebisi continued to train on inclusion and diversity, investigated complaints of harassment and discrimination, and guided her clients through complex litigation. As an executive, Adebisi has helped a company more than double in size by growing locally, expanding nationally, and becoming more effective and efficient, both internally and as a service provider. Adebisi is a proven strategic and visionary leader, who has a passion for education and her community. Adebisi is currently building a new law firm. Previously, she was Vice President with Innocent Technologies, LLC. A company that aims to end disparities by closing the relationship gap. She also worked as a litigator with Blackwell Burke P.A. Ms. Wilson received her undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota and law degree from New York Law School.



**George Montague, Treasurer** joined Nuwellis in June 2021 as Chief Financial Officer. George's prior experience in the medical-device sector includes Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer with Smiths Medical, and Vice President of Finance and Strategy with Medtronic's Restorative Therapies Group and its Diabetes division. Broader technology industry experience includes financial leadership positions with Cisco Systems, Hughes Electronics, and Apple. Mr. Montague received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of California at Berkeley, and a Master of Business Administration from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. He is also a Chartered Financial Analyst and Certified Public Accountant.



**John W. Geelan, Secretary** is general counsel and secretary of Piper Sandler Companies, a position he has held since 2012. He serves on the firm's executive leadership team, and is general counsel and secretary of Piper Sandler & Co., the firm's primary broker-dealer subsidiary. Geelan joined Piper Sandler in 2005 as assistant general counsel, responsible for managing the corporate secretary function and working with the board of directors and senior management across a number of areas, including governance, public company reporting, corporate development and treasury. Prior to joining Piper Sandler, Geelan was in private practice at Faegre & Benson LLP, where he worked in the corporate finance group for four years. Geelan serves on the board of directors for The Fund for Legal Aid and is a member of the board of governors of the University of St. Thomas Law School. He

earned a bachelor's degree in economics and music from the University of St. Thomas and a Juris doctorate from the University of Notre Dame Law School.

## NEW BOARD MEMBER BIOS



**Jaime Candee** leads Edmentum's strategic vision and long-term growth as President, CEO, and Board Director. She has served as CEO of Edmentum since 2017, and has extensive experience in education technology, private equity, and policy. Edmentum is a global education leader, delivering research-based digital curriculum, assessments for learning, and quality educational consulting. With over 60 years of experience, Edmentum is both a pioneer in online teaching and learning solutions and is continually committed to making it easier for educators to individualize learning for every student. In 2018, Jamie founded Edmentum's We Can Learn foundation. We Can Learn is committed to making a meaningful impact in education through philanthropic giving and service, that supports equitable and innovative learning opportunities. Since its inception, We Can Learn has supported the development of a school in Nakivale Refugee Settlement in Uganda, partnered with multiple local and national organizations, and provided support to over 10,000 children.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jpost/>



**Scott Cunningham** has served as the Market Development Director and Senior Manager with Accenture for the last 18 years. Scott has 25 years of experience in consulting with extensive cross functional expertise in market development and business operations management & improvement. He is a committed business and community leader and volunteer. He is currently serving on the Board of Directors of AchieveMpls, the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce, and an active contributor to the MN Coalition for Racial Equity. He has formerly chaired the board of the Corporate Volunteerism Council – Twin Cities, co-chaired the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Twin Cities program, chaired the Greater Twin Cities United Way Emerging Leaders, and has served on the Junior Achievement Project Lead Advisory Board.



**Danielle Duzan** is Vice President Human Resources for the Global Engineering organization at Polaris Industries. She joined Polaris in 2014 and has led the HR support for several functions and businesses across Polaris including Motorcycles, Snowmobile, International, Finance, and Digital /IT. Prior to Polaris Danielle spent almost seven years at Honeywell in various HR positions. She received her Bachelor's in Psychology from the University of Minnesota Duluth, and graduate degree from the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management MA-HRIR program.



**Isa Flaherty** leads hybrid and edge communications for the high-growth, multi-billion-dollar Azure cloud business as a senior communications manager with Microsoft. She actively works to empower youth through mentorship in the Global Give Back Circle and as a counselor for Crisis Text Line. Her past pro bono work includes media outreach and marketing materials for Project Rhythm, a non-profit dedicated to reaching children through music, a board seat with the Twin Cities-based Doing Good Together, and a junior board seat with StepUp Women's Network, where she conducted fundraising, led committee work, and organized numerous New York City-based events. Isa is an advocate for abuse survivors who has shared her personal story at [Be Bold Now 2022](#) and on Microsoft's MCB Radio to help create safe spaces and educate a new generation of allies.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/isaflaherty/>





**Ellie Krug** is the Founder and President, Human Inspiration Works, LLC. She transitioned from male to female while living in Cedar Rapids, Iowa at the age of 52. Although not at all easy, transitioning genders gave Ellie the opportunity for a “do-over” in life, which has included working to make the world fairer and more inclusive for all humans, particularly those considered “Other.” With over 100 civil trials to her credit, Ellie was the first Iowa lawyer to ever transition genders and one of the few attorneys nationally to try jury cases in separate genders. She later relocated to the Twin Cities where she served as the founding executive director of a legal nonprofit that was conferred an American Bar Association award for innovatively increasing

legal access. The author of *Getting to Ellen: A Memoir about Love, Honesty and Gender Change* (2013), Ellie has presented on diversity and inclusion to governmental entities, court systems, Fortune 100 companies, law firms, nonprofits, and colleges/universities on 800+ occasions. Ellie views herself as an “Inclusionist” and founded an inclusion-oriented consulting and training company, Human Inspiration Works, LLC, in 2016. In 2019, the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal conferred its 2019 Business of Pride Career Achievement Award to Ellie and her company, Human Inspiration Works, LLC. In that same year, OutFront Minnesota, the state’s largest LGBTQ advocacy organization, conferred Ellie its 2019 Legacy Award. Ellie is also a weekly radio and podcast host; her show, “Ellie 2.0 Radio,” on AM950 in the Twin Cities, with more than 100 episodes, highlights idealism and how each of us can play a role in fostering positive change in the world. <https://elliokrug.com/about/>



**Wendy Mahling** is Senior Vice President, Corporate Secretary & Securities and Corporate Law for Ameriprise Financial. She is responsible for corporate governance, including supporting the Ameriprise Financial, Inc. board and its committees, as well as leading the legal support of Ameriprise’s mergers & acquisitions, finance, external reporting, investor relations, and treasury functions. Prior to joining Ameriprise, Wendy was the Vice President, Corporate Secretary and Managing Counsel for Xcel Energy where she supported its board of directors and led the legal support for the

mergers & acquisitions, corporate governance, securities, real estate, employee benefits and data privacy functions. Prior to Xcel Energy, Wendy was a partner at the law firm of Faegre & Benson LLP in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she focused on securities, finance, mergers & acquisitions, and corporate governance. Wendy has been active in a number of Twin Cities nonprofits and professional organizations. She is a past President of the Twin Cities Society of Corporate Governance Professionals, and an active member of its Securities Law committee. Wendy received her B.A. from Amherst College and J.D. from the University of Minnesota. Following law school, she was a law clerk for the Honorable Diana E. Murphy, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.



**Hillery Shay** is the Vice President Marketing & Communications for Children’s Minnesota. She is a brand and marketing executive with a strong creative background in healthcare, physician engagement, professional education, and mass communications. She has a proven track record of developing and leading high-performing teams in matrixed and regulated environments. She has built and developed award-winning departments for digital marketing, marketing communications, creative services, conventions, and most recently professional

education for Fortune 100 companies.

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**Tanya Taylor** is Executive Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary for Radisson Hospitality Inc. She is a Senior Attorney with extensive legal experience providing general corporate, M&A, and general transactional support to corporate executives and senior-level management at both private and publicly held entities across diverse industries, most notably Hospitality, Professional Services, Sports and Entertainment, Consumer Products, Software, and Internet startups. She served as in-house counsel within organizations doing business across North America, Caribbean, Central America, and South America. Adept communication and problem-solving skills, combined with a keen ability to identify, balance, and resolve competing agendas and personality differences, result in creative solutions to achieve desired business objectives. Strong, direct, and transparent negotiation skills provide swift win-win outcomes for all parties.

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**Hannah Yankelevich** is Partner in McKinsey's Minneapolis office and leader within McKinsey's retail practice in North America, with a specific focus in Apparel Go-to-Market growth strategy and processes. Prior to McKinsey, Hannah worked for Google for four years as an online go-to-market consultant for apparel retailers from Zappos to Forever21, maximizing e-commerce and website engagement to increase sales via user experience. Hannah received her B.A. in Economics and English from Smith College, and her M.B.A. from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth.

**Children's Theatre Company (CTC)** is the nation's largest and most acclaimed theatre for young people and serves a multigenerational audience. It creates theatre experiences that educate, challenge, and inspire for more than 250,000 people annually. CTC is the only theatre focused on young audiences to win the coveted Tony Award® for regional theatre and is the only theatre in Minnesota to receive three Tony® nominations (for its production of *A Year with Frog and Toad*). CTC is committed to creating world-class productions at the highest level and to developing new works, more than 200 to date, dramatically changing the canon of work for young audiences.

CTC is the most significant provider of accessible theatre education opportunities in the region. Every year, thousands of children experience theatre for the first time at CTC. Our student matinees and education programs demonstrably benefit the community, from the intergenerational conversations sparked by our world premieres, to the sequential skill-building that happens in our Theatre Arts Training, to the pre-K focus of our Early Childhood Initiative. ACT One is CTC's comprehensive platform for access, diversity, and inclusion in our audiences, programs, staff, and board that strives to ensure the theatre is a home for all people, all families, reflective of our community. [childrenstheatre.org](http://childrenstheatre.org)

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