

## Front Steps Board of Directors

### **Jeffrey R. Lilly** **President**

Jeff is a shareholder at the law firm of Clark, Thomas & Winters, PC in Austin. He defends product liability cases with a specialty in drug and medical devices, representing pharmaceutical companies, including Wyeth, Pfizer and Glaxo Smithkline. He is also trained in mediation. Admitted to the State Bar of Texas in 1993, Jeff served as an Assistant Attorney General the following year for over one year before moving to private practice. A long-time resident of Austin since the late 1970s, Jeff is active in Big Brothers Big Sisters, mentoring at-risk youth and providing children with skills to manage their day to day challenges. In his role as president of the board of directors for Front Steps, Jeff believes that Front Steps can play a vital role in the Austin community's efforts to provide basic services and affordable housing opportunities for its homeless population.

### **Rose Lancaster** **Past President**

Rose's 40 years of effective community service has earned her the respect and admiration of senators and homeless persons alike. Rose is a founding member of Front Steps in 1997, and she served as its president from 1998 through 2003. During Rose's tenure as president, the organization grew from co-managing a day shelter with a \$60,000 budget to managing a shelter 24 hours a day, seven days a week and a supportive housing program with a \$1,600,000 budget. Rose also is well known for expanding the Extend-A-Care Program from one after-school program serving 20 children to 35 diverse programs serving over 1,500 children. The Austin Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers named Rose "Citizen of the Year 2000."

### **Lynn Sanders** **Vice President**

An attorney in Austin since 1975, Lynn focuses on probate, social security disability, family, civil litigation, criminal cases and some special education issues. For three years, he was the managing and a staff attorney at Advocacy, Inc., where he handled developmental disability and mental health legal issues for persons with disabilities in state hospitals and state schools as well as in the community around Texas. Lynn also has 10 years experience working as a volunteer with the local Mental Health Mental Retardation organization with a special focus on adult mental health. Additionally, he served on the agency's public relations board subcommittee. Fluent in Spanish, Lynn lived two years in South America, part of which time he taught English at the university in Bogota, Columbia. He was born in Austin.

### **Jerry Moffitt** **Secretary**

Jerry is vice president and chief of staff at Kolar Advertising & Marketing in Austin. She is responsible for the staff's career development needs, human resources management, new employee training and the proactive recruitment of top-notch talent on a national basis. Formerly the agency's CFO, Jerry has great insight into what it takes to build a successful organization, starting with her eight and one-half years of agency experience as a financial director. She has a rich enthusiasm for people and nurturing relationships.



## **Mike Abkowitz** **Treasurer**

Mike Abkowitz is currently Manager of Great-West Retirement Services, responsible for the Texas Region. In 2002, he retired as Chief Financial Officer of the City of Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department, after having served the City of Austin in various financial management capacities since 1979. He holds a BA in Political Science & Economics from Syracuse University and a Masters in Public Affairs from the LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin. He is a Certified Government Financial Manager, Certified Retirement Administrator, and Certified Retirement Counselor, and holds NASD series 6, 26, and 63 licenses.

## **John Nyfeler** **Member At Large**

A fellow of the American Institute of Architects, John is vice president and manager of the Austin office of Aguirre Corporation, a nationally recognized, Hispanic owned professional service organization, headquartered in Dallas. The firm provides architecture and engineering design services for commercial, institutional, public and private sector clients, and construction services for commercial development programs. John has prior service on the City of Austin Environmental Board and Downtown Commission and serves on the board of directors for the Downtown Austin Alliance. Other affiliations include 2003 Past President of the Texas Society of Architects; Leadership Austin, 1990; Community Action Network, 1995-1999; Co-chair R/UDAT Austin for downtown revitalization, and AIA Austin 2003 Community Service Award. John serves with Front Steps because he believes that in the end our culture is judged by how well we care for the least fortunate people among us.

