

My name is Chris Bray and I have been working in the philanthropy/nonprofit field for over 25 years. Currently I serve as the President of the Northeast Georgia Health System Foundation and Chief Philanthropy Officer for the Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS). Previously I served my community as Regional Director for the American Heart Association (East Tennessee), Director of Major Gifts for the University of Tennessee Medical Center, Director of Development for Tampa General Hospital and Associate Vice President of Advancement for my Alma Mater, the University of South Florida.

I have a passion for how philanthropy makes an impact of the community. My career has allowed me to witness the power of individuals making transformational gifts and also how collective fundraising in small amounts impacts the lives of those served by national and local organizations.

Being a part of the Middle Class United Cooperative (MCU Coop) provides an opportunity to use my skills and experience to affect lives on a national level. I am the proud father of two children (25 & 23) who are at the stage of life where home buying is both a dream and a major next step in life. Unfortunately, the current economic climate present challenges I was never faced with at their age. Skyrocketing costs and limited availability of “starter homes” force too many young people and families into apartments and other expensive alternatives that put the American dream of home ownership out of reach. Working with other board members to grow the Coop and develop innovative ideas that provide solutions for people struggling to buy a home is a mission I just agree with, and that makes the MCU an exciting organization to serve.

My background in higher education and healthcare have allowed me to be a part of several organizations that provide scholarships and programs which open doors to opportunities that change lives. As the son of a fireman, I have seen firsthand how training and education can move people into new positions. But today, those opportunities sometimes seem inaccessible for people who must choose between advanced training and education or working to pay the bills. I believe working with MCU Coop we can help those folks with the desire and work ethic to change their situation but may lack the resources to do so. Improving the lives of others has been in my blood for most of my adult life. Serving on this board will allow me to work with like minded people and make a real difference to those who want to get ahead in life. To me, that is the American way, and a life well purposed.