



Michelle R. Hawley

Biography for Starfish Foundation Board of Directors
(2022-2023 Term)

Michelle Hawley began her personal journey with the Starfish Foundation in the fall of 2014. A trauma survivor, she hoped to find healing and peace after many years of shame, guilt, and depression. Michelle's greatest takeaway from Taking It Lightly was the gift of hope . . . hope that she could change her own perspective, hope that she could move forward, and most importantly, hope that things could be different – that despite her past, she could find peace in her heart. To continue the journey of healing and continued self-improvement, Michelle has also participated in Healing Warrior Hearts, Successful Living Basic Training, Walking in the Light, Trauma Recovery Facilitation Training, and the Day of Forgiveness & Gratitude.

To say that Michelle is somewhat of a fixture is an understatement. As the current President of The Starfish Foundation, she truly believes in her heart that this work changes lives! She has served on the Board of Directors for the last two terms, previously holding the role of Secretary. She also volunteers at many events, serves as a co-instructor for Successful Living Basic Training and the Day of Forgiveness & Gratitude, and staffs/co-supervises Healing Warrior Hearts retreats when her Army Reserve schedule allows.

Michelle knows that while healing is possible, it is also a process that takes time and effort . . . it is not a one-time fix. She has been truly committed to ensuring that others are afforded the opportunity to find healing and hope for a better future. Another important way she contributes is through her strength as a fundraiser. Over the last several years, Michelle has helped raise thousands of dollars by running silent auctions for the Open Road Angel's Ride for Veterans and the UW-Milwaukee's Military and Veterans Resource Center's (MAVRC) Military Ball Committee. She also initiated projects like the foundation's annual calendar raffle, Wednesday Night Live Charity of the Week, and a Body by Design Boot Camp Fundraiser.

Michelle is consistently on the look-out for new fundraising opportunities. She has assisted with drafting grant requests and submitting numerous other applications and submissions for funding to support healing. Michelle acknowledges that having an abundance of funding is imperative to the future success of The Starfish Foundation's mission to ensure that the cost of finding hope and healing is not contingent on a person's ability to pay.

Michelle is a dedicated, dependable, and compassionate member of the Starfish Family, and would continue to serve as a valuable and reliable member of the Starfish Board of Directors. She understands the importance of the work, funded almost exclusively through the efforts of The Starfish Foundation, because of her own personal journey and by having had the gift to witness change and transformation in other participants.