

Michelle Gleason

MSW, LCSW, SAS

Summary

Passionate community leader with 23 years of experience in the non-profit sector, including 14 years in leadership roles and two as an Executive Director. A lifelong Wausau resident committed to strengthening schools and the broader community through strategic partnerships, sound fiscal management, and innovative programming. Recognized for fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders to expand opportunities for youth, families, and educators. Known for a leadership style grounded in integrity, accountability, and trust, creating environments where teams and communities thrive together.

Professional Experience

Development Director, Community Foundation of North Central

March 2023-present

- **Expanding Community Investment** – Lead development initiatives to strengthen the Foundation’s relationships and grow assets, ensuring lasting resources for schools, nonprofits, and community programs.
- **Collaborative Leadership** – Engage civic, business, and education partners to serve as ambassadors, building shared responsibility for community and student success.
- **Youth Empowerment** – Coordinating the Youth Philanthropy program, which teaches students leadership, civic responsibility, and the importance of charitable giving.

Executive Director, Peaceful Solutions Counseling

March 2021-February 2023

- **Fiscal Oversight & Budget Accountability** – Directed organizational budgets and financial operations with transparency and accountability.
- **Strategic Planning & Policy Development** – Provided leadership to a 22-member team while successfully implementing a new electronic medical record system, improving efficiency and compliance.
- **Educational Partnerships & Youth Advocacy** – Collaboration with the School-Based Counseling Consortium to expand access to in-school therapy, directly supporting student well-being and academic success.

Clinical Coordinator/Manager/Service Facilitator, North Central Health Care

December 2002-March 2021

- **Leadership & Training** – Served as a Motivational Interviewing coach, implementation lead, and trainer, building staff capacity and strengthening service delivery.

- **Strategic Alignment** – Directed programs to align with organizational goals and measurable outcomes, ensuring accountability and impact.
- **Values-Based Leadership** – Modeled and reinforced core values to foster a strong, ethical, and mission-driven workplace culture.
- **Innovation & Improvement** – Led an implementation team that applied research-based strategies and evidence-based practices to drive continuous quality improvement.

Education & Professional Licenses

Master of Social Work	University of Green Bay
Bachelor of Arts with Communications Minor	University of Stevens Point
Substance Abuse Specialty License	State of Wisconsin
Clinical Social Work License	State of Wisconsin

Training

Dare to Lead Certified	April 2025
North Central Health Care Leadership Series	October 2018
Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers	October 2018-present

Community Involvement

Court Appointed Special Advocate	February 2025-present
National Alliance for Mental Illness	September 2014-present
Wausau East Travel Basketball Coach	October 2021-present
Noon Rotary	May 2023-present
Wausau Area Chamber of Commerce-Ambassador	August 2021-June 2023
Faith in Action-Outreach Volunteer	March 2020-September 2020

References

Mike Rhea-Executive Director of the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Central Wisconsin (supervisor of seven years-North Central Health Care)
 Mike.rhea@adrc-cw.org
 715-212-9987

Michelle Hazuka-Business Co-Owner of Central Wisconsin Mental Health Associates (colleague of seven years and supervisor for one year-North Central Health Care)
 Mhazuka@cwmha.org
 715-212-6209