

# "Champions of Caring"

The Coral Ring  
a documentary



## SYNOPSIS

Since 1995, 10,000 high school students from the greater Philadelphia region have participated in the Champions of Caring program. The focus of the program was to provide them with the skills to create projects addressing challenging social issues in our society. Nine of these students, who are now in their 30's and 40's, and continue to create local, national, and global change will be featured in *Champions of Caring*, a documentary currently in development. This documentary will show the power of the individual and collective possibility to create extraordinary change.

## THE TIME FOR CHANGE IS NOW

Each of us can, and must, take an active role in improving our community. The documentary *Champions of Caring* shares positive stories about how each person, regardless of age or background, can create change in the world. It will inspire people to make impactful contributions. Educational materials will be available on our website to help individuals create social justice projects.

## INSPIRATION

The documentary was inspired by the work of Champions of Caring, a not-for-profit dedicated to sensitizing, educating, and empowering young people to take active roles in improving their world. Barbara Greenspan Shaiman, the daughter, and granddaughter of Holocaust survivors established the organization. Her mother, Carola Greenspan, and grandmother Golda Greenspan were incarcerated in Auschwitz. Carola was the sole survivor of a family of 65 people. Her father, Henry Greenspan, worked for Oskar Schindler. After Barbara visited Auschwitz with her parents and 50 other Holocaust survivors and their families, she was inspired to create Champions of Caring to empower the next generation of social advocates. This film follows that next generation, and the legacy they are creating.



- ★ poverty
- ★ hunger
- ★ housing
- ★ health
- ★ climate
- ★ literacy
- ★ racism
- ★ violence
- ★ inequality
- ★ genocide
- ★ intolerance





**“We live in a world where violence, racism, hate crimes & social inequalities are overwhelming and feel insurmountable.**

**I feel people of all ages and backgrounds can live more meaningful lives by creating projects for personal growth and social change.”**

— Barbara



**BARBARA GREENSPAN SHAIMAN, M.Ed.**  
Executive Producer

Throughout her career, noted educator, author, businesswoman, and social entrepreneur, Barbara Greenspan Shaiman has used her skills and ability to empower others to create social change. In 1995, Barbara founded Champions of Caring, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to sensitizing, educating, and empowering young people to take active roles in improving their world. Her work has been supported by Steven Spielberg’s Righteous Persons Foundation and NBC Universal.



**HENRY NEVISON**  
Director & Producer

Henry is an Emmy and international award-winning director, producer, director of photography, and editor with more than 40 years of experience creating programming for broadcast television and educational institutions, commercials, corporate communications, and public relations presentations. Nevison’s work includes The History Channel, The Discovery Channel, Biography, National Geographic, and PBS. His film, “On the Other Side of the Fence” won the Gold Medal for social issues programming from the New York Festivals, and a Bronze Medal from the United Nations Public Information Office for representing the ideals of that institution.



# CHAMPIONS OF CARING

In their own words



## GRANGER SIMMONS

**"Through Champions, I found my voice, and my passion to fight for those who can not fight for themselves was awakened."**

"The experience opened my eyes to the world of possibilities beyond my then, narrow worldview as an African American young man living in non-suburban Pennsylvania. I learned that life's experiences should never determine a person's trajectory. Instead, a passion and pursuit of purpose should be the driving force that lifts you up, brings you out, and takes you over into your destiny. Now, as an adult, I fight for social justice and social change here in Finland as a City Councilman."



## LISA BILDERSEE

**"My service with the program made me realize my passion for working with those who are differently-abled or underprivileged. Twenty years later, I pour my energy into raising compassionate and caring children."**

"The program taught me one person can make a difference. There's no more important message to today's youth in a world increasingly overshadowed by divisiveness and indifference. The program fosters collaboration and caring by empowering youth to serve their communities. I was exposed to communities and groups of people I'd never have dreamed of interacting with prior to the program."



## AUSTIN RAPBAUM

**"Lessons obtained through the Champions program have continued to light the way towards being successful and helping my community as well."**

"I work as a performing artist and music producer in New Orleans Louisiana and there are many opportunities for me to use art as a way to impact others. Because of Champions, I have learned much about project organization, leadership, securing outside funding, pitching myself, and empathy toward diverse groups. This has allowed me to grow my network far beyond most of my associates in the music industry."





**"To this day, I continue to serve those around me. Whether I'm teaching financial literacy to women in homeless shelters, mentoring young children, or serving at community kitchens, my understanding of adversity and compassion continues to be my guiding star. "**

**STEPHANIE OLIVER**

"Born and raised in North Philadelphia, I've always understood how adversity and compassion can define how one sees life.

As a student at University City High School in Philadelphia, I was introduced to Champions of Caring.

- I gained tools to support my community service efforts and received mentoring from some of the most brilliant minds in community building and leadership.

- I shared my story on some of the country's largest platforms, including with the United Way, the American Association of Educators, former President George W. Bush, and other political, community, and cultural leaders.

- I also served as a docent at the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C., simultaneously educating those about the atrocities of the Holocaust as well as the impact of the enslavement of Africans across the world."

From an early age, I decided to make my own mark on the world by starting Project C.A.R.E - Children Achieving Reading Enlightenment. C.A.R.E. partnered K-8 students in my North Philadelphia community with volunteer teachers and education specialists to not only offer Reading and Math support but also offer emotional and mental support to those who are often neglected the most. Through these efforts and the support of numerous selfless volunteers, the community of C.A.R.E. enabled hundreds of children to exceed far basic standardized testing scores in reading, writing, and mathematics.



**MARIE DIMENNA**

**"My desire to be aware and responsive to the sufferings in the world is a value that continues to shape my life today."**

"As a 42-year-old woman, my time spent in the program continues to impact me as a writer, Christian minister, and social worker. My time visiting the Holocaust museum with Barbara, her parents, and the other Champions taught me about the atrocities the Jewish people faced during the Holocaust. Barbara and her parents encouraged us high schoolers to be compassionate towards the world's sufferings rather than to pretend the suffering is not occurring."



**MARTEEN OLAYA**

**"Champions of Caring enabled me to speak up when I felt there was an injustice."**

"It also reminded me every day to love everyone, no matter the color of their skin. It allowed me to continue to give back to the less fortunate in my community. We must find ways to make positive change."



**NATHAN DORFMAN**

**"The program boosted my confidence tremendously as a leader and enabled me to create service-related initiatives of my own."**

"Because of the skills I gained through Champions, I was able to attend George Mason University on a full-tuition scholarship program, which emphasized service and leadership.

Each of the jobs I have held since graduate school has been in the public and nonprofit sectors, and have focused on community impact.

Currently, I work in the Office of Transportation, Infrastructure, and Sustainability for the City of Philadelphia.

I strongly believe that the Champions of Caring program has inspired me to pursue these types of professional opportunities."

**"It's been over 20 years, and this singular experience of being a Champion forever changed my perspective on service and the power of what a single individual can do to change the lives of others."**

"I've given back through Board leadership to non-profit organizations and helping to serve those in need.

Through my profession in Human Resources Management, I give through career coaching, mentorship, and teaching career readiness and professional skills. As a clergyman, I offer counseling and teach lessons of hope and encouragement. Through all aspects of my life, I've attempted to make a difference in the lives of others."

**TERRELL MCCRAY**



# “Champions of Caring”

## Our Journey and Mission



Our 30 years of youth development work promoting social activism and community leadership in the greater Philadelphia region has compelled us to redesign our mission.

This mission is based on a combination of three methodologies that inform our unique approach to help create a caring and more just society.

We are creating tools that invite people of all ages and backgrounds to be catalysts for change.

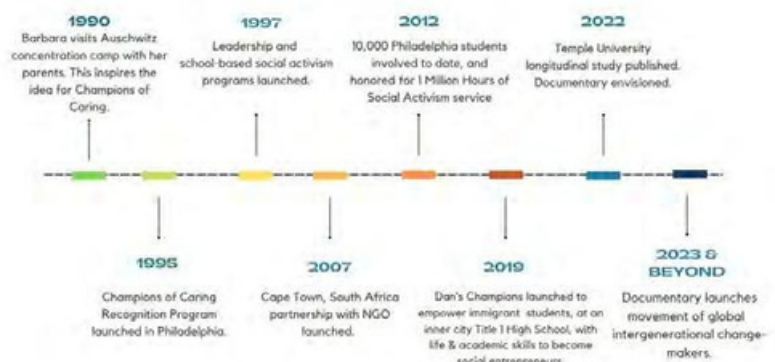
These tools are available for individuals, families, organizations and faith communities to explore:

- How to address societal issues to create social change through purposeful and sustained action
- How to mobilize the power of intergenerational collaborations to amplify impact
- How to address the growing hatred in our society by understanding the universal lessons of the Holocaust and genocide



Champions of Caring is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to inspiring, empowering, and activating global change-makers of all ages and backgrounds to create social change.

## OUR HISTORY



This timeline describes our development and evolution.

## OUR CHANGEMAKER METHODOLOGY

