

## HVAF hires two new VPs for Advancement Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Indianapolis, IN** — HVAF of Indiana, Inc. is excited to announce two new hires for its Advancement Department: Colonel (Retired) Bernard (Bernie) Kruse as Vice President for Advancement and Ms. Ashlee Walls as Associate Vice President for Advancement.



Bernie comes with over 30 years of service in the Indiana Army National Guard with the last 20 years serving on full-time active duty. He retired in 2014 and has served since then as the Safety Director for C-Tech Corporation. He earned a Master of Science degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Indianapolis. His key military experiences included commanding an aviation task force in Iraq; executive officer for an aviation task force in Bosnia; operations officer for a 14,000-member, multi-state task force responding to Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi; and as the Director of Human Resources for the

15,000-member Indiana National Guard. Bernie brings to his new role a rich skill set and deep experience in organizational leadership, strategic and tactical planning, complex problem-solving, project management, business administration, and operational communications.

Ashlee comes to us with over 16 years of direct fundraising experience and deep-rooted connections within the Indianapolis philanthropic community. Her roles with various nonprofits in the Indianapolis area include Director of Major Gifts, Director of Advancement, Development Director, and Community Relations Director. She worked for several years as an independent fundraising consultant supporting political campaigns and is no stranger to high-pressure, high-tempo environments. She earned a Political Science degree from Indiana University and relevant certificates from the IU Center on Philanthropy including Writing Grant Proposals and Personal Communications with Donors. Her professional affiliations include serving as Chair of the Marketing and Fundraising Committee for FIDO (Friends of Indianapolis Dogs Outside), both a State and National member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, and a member of the Society of Nonprofits. Her experience in various development roles in the nonprofit world will benefit HVAF as she works to expand and enhance our fundraising efforts and develops and implements donor campaigns.



Bernie and Ashlee join HVAF at an exciting moment in its journey forward. They will play critical and integral roles in helping realize HVAF's vision.

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