

ASSOCIATION OF FUNDRAISING PROFESSIONALS  
GREATER HOUSTON CHAPTER

NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY®  
2021 AWARDS APPLICATION

**APPLICATION FORM**  
**(THIS FORM SHOULD BE THE FIRST PAGE OF THE PDF SUBMISSION\*)**

**Award Category:** Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser

**Nominee's Name:** Carol and Michael Linn

**Associated with (firm or organization):** MCL Ventures

**Contact Person:** Joan Acton **Position:** Personal Assistant

**Mailing Address:** 8 Greenway Plaza, Suite 600

**City:** Houston **State:** Texas **Zip Code:** 77046

**Phone:** 281-404-7440 **Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** joan@mclven.com **Website:** N/A

**Nominator's Name:** Virginia Tomlinson **Position:** Senior Director, Philanthropy

**\*\*Nomination Facilitator Name:** Laura Renaud **Position:** Philanthropy Advisor

**Associated with (firm / organization):** Texas Children's Hospital

**Mailing Address:** 1919 South Braeswood, Suite 5214

**City:** Houston **State:** Texas **Zip Code:** 77030

**Phone:** 832-824-2308 **Fax:** 832-825-2162

**Email:** lerenaud@texaschildrens.org

Approval for AFP to post winning application on website for training purposes.  Yes  No

\* Enumerate each criterion and address each one in narrative form using no more than three (3) pages, single-spaced (12-point font with 1-inch margins).

\*\* This is usually the development professional facilitating the nomination. This person will be the "host" from the nominating organization for the award winner and will be the main point of contact for the winner.

## LEADERSHIP ROLE AND IMPACT

Carol and Michael Linn are truly outstanding volunteer fundraisers who have made significant contributions to foster a philanthropic spirit and resilience throughout Houston. They share a compassion for others, a commitment to giving back, and a keen ability to galvanize support.

***Texas Children's Hospital:*** A meeting in 2008 opened Michael Linn's eyes to the enormous and positive impact philanthropy can make. After Michael moved his company, Linn Energy, to Houston, it was not long before a friend offered to introduce him to the Chief of Congenital Heart Surgery and eventual Surgeon-in-Chief at the hospital. The friend knew of the heartbreaking loss Michael had experienced in 1989 when his son, Matthew, died at the age of seven after undergoing surgery in Boston to repair a congenital heart defect. But she also knew that the surgeon could show Michael something amazing. Texas Children's invited Michael to visit the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit, and there, Michael saw children who had undergone successful Fontan procedures — the same procedure his son had 19 years earlier — and were on their way home the next day. The Linns committed \$1 million to Texas Children's to establish the Matthew Linn Endowed Fund in Congenital Heart Surgery, and a wonderful partnership began.

Michael and Carol have actively and tirelessly championed the hospital's mission, making additional gifts, serving as incredible advocates, building relationships in the community, and encouraging others to give generously as well. Michael joined the Texas Children's Board of Trustees, and is now serving as the Chairman. He has served in this role longer than any past Chairman, and we are so grateful for his leadership.

Michael and Carol also served as chairs of the groundbreaking recent campaign, *Promise: The Campaign for Texas Children's Hospital*, leading a campaign committee and Leadership Cabinet of more than 100 volunteers. The *Promise Campaign* was the answer to the growing need for increased facilities to meet the needs of Texas Children's growing pediatric population. The hospital had outgrown the space it had to serve the most critically ill patients and their families, and for Carol and Michael, and everyone at Texas Children's – turning away patients just was not an option. “When you add 8,000 families a month to the population base, we have to grow with it,” Michael said. “We take the sickest kids, and we should not ever turn anybody away because we don't have any room.”

Michael and Carol took the helm of the *Promise Campaign* and were incredibly hands-on chairs, taking their role very seriously and even stepping down from other boards in order to focus solely on Texas Children's. **The campaign's goal was to raise \$475 million by 2020, and in November 2018, the campaign finished with a total of \$578 million, raising the most support in the hospital's history in a single campaign. Thanks to the Linn's leadership, the campaign finished more than \$100 million over goal and two years early!** The *Promise Campaign* allowed for major expansions that focus on giving critically ill patients better access to treatment, including the Lester and Sue Smith Legacy Tower and Texas Children's Hospital The Woodlands campus.

***Museum of Fine Arts Houston:*** Carol and Michael have been devoted supporters of the Museum for over two decades, and their incredible generosity has lifted the institution to new

heights and strengthened the cultural life of the entire Houston community. The Linns co-chaired critical fundraising benefits at the Museum, including the Grand Gala Ball, to which they contributed considerable time and energy. In addition, the Linns co-chaired the Bayou Bend Garden Party, helping raise a notable amount for Bayou Bend operations. The Linns also patronized the popular exhibition entitled “Monet and the Seine: Impressions of a River.”

Michael also serves as a longtime member of the Museum’s Board of Trustees, helping shape the direction of major initiatives, including the MFAH capital campaign, a historic project that will completely reshape the campus and the Museum District as a whole. He also currently serves on the Museum’s Finance, Long-Range Planning, and Buildings and Grounds committees.

**TEACH:** Carol’s passion and support for educational opportunity stems from her own personal childhood experiences. She remembers growing up with encouragement from her parents to attend college, juxtaposed with an understanding that they could not afford the substantial cost of higher education. Nevertheless, her parents instilled a passion for learning in Carol, which she credits as the inspiration for her involvement in expanding educational access for underprivileged youth. Her support and volunteer efforts co-chairing the Teach ALL Children (TEACH) fundraiser resulted in more than \$3 million in five years. TEACH provides educators with intensive training in classroom culture, focusing on de-escalation, conflict resolution, nonverbal communication, and building the self-confidence of every student.

**Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo:** Carol is a proud member of the Champagne Cowgirls, a distinctive group of women who make their annual mark at the RodeoHouston Steer Auction with their fashion statement and buying power. Carol’s involvement is much more than rhinestones and turquoise – she is deeply committed to supporting education for young people, with her 2019 contributions providing 18 scholarships for Houston-area students.

**MD Anderson Cancer Center:** Michael has served as a member of the prestigious MD Anderson Cancer Center Board of Visitors since 2010, contributing to numerous high priority initiatives to advance the center’s mission to end cancer. During his tenure, Michael’s leadership and service has been consistently recognized by fellow board members on the Executive, Government Relations, and Development committees.

**Houston Methodist:** The Linns generously support Houston Methodist, concentrating their gifts in neurosciences and reconstructive surgery. Their gifts have made a tremendous impact on research capacity and enhanced patient care. Michael also has been an active member of the Houston Methodist President’s Leadership Council Senior Cabinet since 2014, participating in both formal and informal meetings and offering business advice and valuable insights. In addition, Michael and Carol have helped Houston Methodist connect to other like-minded individuals and have hosted events in their home in order to help forge new relationships.

### **ABILITY TO LEAD, MOTIVATE, MANAGE AND INSPIRE OTHERS**

Carol and Michael’s tenacious energy and ability to lead, motivate, and inspire others enabled them to achieve the milestone goal of raising \$578 million for Texas Children’s. They have enthusiastically partnered with Texas Children’s volunteers and executive leadership to champion the organization and advocate its mission to internal and external stakeholders time

and time again. The Linns hosted numerous large and small events to raise funds for the *Promise Campaign*. During the campaign, Michael was known for having many impromptu one-on-one meetings with prospective donors, and their commitment and steadfast belief in the hospital's mission inspired more than 100 Leadership Cabinet members to commit their time and resources.

Michael quips that he gained 10 pounds during the *Promise Campaign*, due to all of the lunches he hosted at the hospital. He was the “go to” person when it came to inviting the most influential Houstonians to tour the hospital and meet with physicians about funding needs.

Prior to chairing the *Promise Campaign*, Michael chaired the Corporate Committee for the *Heal Sick Children Campaign*, connecting countless business leaders to Texas Children's and facilitating introductions. By hosting various events focused on energy industry leaders, he shared his incredible Rolodex and brought Direct Energy, Texas Children's largest corporate donor to a campaign priority, into the fold. The *Promise Campaign* and the *Heal Sick Children Campaign* combined raised more than \$1 billion for Texas Children's.

Michael's leadership is time-consuming, and time well spent. Serving as Chairman of Texas Children's board requires a significant time commitment, with Michael averaging more than 30 hours per month in meetings. He has served on the hospital's Executive Committee (Chairman), Board of Trustees, Compensation Committee, Building & Grounds Committee, Finance Committee, Quality, Service & Safety Committee, and Nominating Committee.

#### **SUPPORT OF OTHER NONPROFITS**

Carol and Michael were honored with the prestigious Woodrow Wilson Award for Public Service in 2013, in recognition of their outstanding commitment to their community. This award is given to individuals who have served with distinction in public life. They were also honored by The Center for Hearing and Speech in 2013 with an award for couples who have made an enduring impact through their leadership in the energy industry and commitments to the organization. In 2010, they received the Samaritan Spirit Award from the Houston Children's Charity and the Krist Samaritan Center, and Carol was named an ABC-13 Woman of Distinction in 2015.

The couple recently chaired the **Brookwood Community's** 2021 virtual gala, and has also chaired the **Alley Theatre** Ball, the **Houston Food Bank's** annual dinner, and the **St. Luke's Friends of Nursing** luncheon. Carol has been a leader of the **Salvation Army, Julia Ideson Library Preservation Partners, Hermann Park Conservancy, St. Luke's Friends of Nursing, Krist Samaritan Center,** and the **Houston Holocaust Museum**. She was also named to the **Houston Chronicle Best Dressed Hall of Fame** and volunteers in the horticulture department at the **Brookwood Community**. Michael's other civic affiliations include serving in leadership capacities for **Houston Children's Charity, Houston Symphony, Texas Heart Institute at CHI St. Luke's Health-Baylor St. Luke's, University of Houston,** and the **Houston Police Foundation**.

Through their leadership at Texas Children's and countless other organizations, Carol and Michael actively and tirelessly champion our mission and the mission of so many others. They have established a truly inspiring legacy for other Houstonians to follow.

THE  
**BROOKWOOD**  
COMMUNITY

1752 FM 1489 Brookshire, Texas 77423  
281-375-2100  
[www.brookwoodcommunity.org](http://www.brookwoodcommunity.org)

May 24, 2021

Association of Fundraising Professionals  
Greater Houston Chapter  
2021 National Philanthropy Day Selection Committee

RE: Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser: Carol and Michael Linn

Dear Committee Members,

I respectfully submit this letter of endorsement for the nomination of Carol and Michael Linn for Outstanding Volunteer Fundraisers of the year. It has been my great pleasure to work with Carol and Mike since early 2020 on The Brookwood Community's 2021 "Evening in Our Garden Gala."

We began planning the event before Covid-19 was a part of our daily concerns. Through the first few months, we were hopeful that we could have an in-person event in April 2021. But as the year progressed and Covid restrictions remained, we realized we would need to pivot and come up with another plan.

Carol and Mike sought advice from leaders in the medical community, whom they know through their philanthropy and volunteer service, to help us determine how to move forward with the event. From this counsel, the decision was made to go virtual, and our focus became creating an online event that was compelling and inspiring, and represented the joy and perseverance of the Brookwood Community, but without the benefit of having our Citizens and guests in the same room.

Carol sought assistance and advice from several prominent marketing and events specialists in Houston to help create the best possible outcome for this fundraising event. Many times, a volunteer chairman focuses on the aesthetics of an event and leaves the fundraising to the staff. Not only did Carol and Mike support the event at a leadership level, they also reached out to their friends and colleagues to ask for their support, and encouraged them to learn more about and become involved with the Brookwood Community.

During the months of quarantine, with no in-person contact, Carol was the calm yet driving force that kept our spirits up and funds coming in. With Carol and Mike Linn as the chairs of our *Evening in Our Garden "No Go" Gala*, we raised a record-setting \$1.1 million and exceeded our budgeted goal by nearly 25%! More than 300 people supported the event and requested access to the

online presentation. We estimate it was viewed by approximately 700 people which is double the number who typically would attend the in-person event.

In a year with so many changes, challenges and unknowns, Carol and Mike were instrumental in the remarkable success of this event. I wholeheartedly endorse the nomination of Carol and Michael Linn as Outstanding Volunteer Fundraisers of the year. We are truly indebted to them for their amazing leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Thornburg". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Carol Ostlind Thornburg  
Chief Advancement Officer

May 24, 2021

Association of Fundraising Professionals  
Greater Houston Chapter  
National Philanthropy Day Awards Committee  
2929 Allen Parkway, Suite 200  
Houston, TX 77019

Dear Members of the Committee:

*Amy M. Purvis*  
*Chief Development Officer*

On behalf of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, I am writing to express our support of the Texas Children's Hospital's recent nomination of Carol and Mike Linn as candidates for the AFP National Philanthropy Day *Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser Award*. Carol and Mike have been devoted supporters of the Museum for fifteen years and continue to extend their kindness to nearly every aspect of our mission—from events and annual fund drives to exhibitions and long-term capital projects. We are fortunate to count Carol and Mike among the Museum's most devoted supporters.

When Carol and Mike moved to Houston from Pittsburgh, they made it immediately clear that they intended to invest in the cultural life of the community. In 2006, they made their first gift to the Museum and have continued to support our efforts ever since. They went on to co-chair many important events, including the Grand Gala Ball, the Museum's premier fundraising benefit, and the Bayou Bend Garden Party, to which they contributed considerable time, energy, and resources.

Mike also serves as a longtime member of our Board of Trustees, helping shape the direction of major initiatives, including a transformative \$477 million capital campaign that expanded and fully redeveloped the Museum's campus and the city's Museum District. He currently plays a leading role on the Museum's finance and long-range planning committees, and has served on many others in years past. Mike's passion and impressive breadth of knowledge have been instrumental to the committees' many achievements and will benefit the Museum and the community for generations to come.

Through their generous involvement in so many important causes and organizations, the Linns have established an inspiring legacy for other Houstonians to follow. We cannot overstate their positive impact on our institution and the broader community, and the Museum is proud to support Carol and Mike's well-deserved nomination for the AFP National Philanthropy Day *Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser Award*.

Most sincerely,



Amy Purvis

AMP:ls

### **Carol and Michael Linn Short Bio**

Carol and Michael Linn are truly outstanding volunteer fundraisers who have made significant contributions to foster resilience and philanthropic spirit throughout Houston. They share a compassion for others, a commitment to giving back, and a keen ability to galvanize support. This couple's consideration, generosity, and leadership skills have advanced the mission of multiple charities, benefitting countless individuals in the Houston community and beyond. Michael is a Senior Advisor with Quantum Energy Partners, and current President & CEO of MCL Ventures LLC, an oil/gas/real estate investment firm. Carol spent more than 30 years serving the natural gas and oil industry in a variety of roles, including Vice President of U.S. Industry and Regulatory Affairs. Both graciously give their time, effort, and financial resources to further many worthy causes.

### **Carol and Michael Linn Long Bio**

Carol Linn spent more than 30 years serving the natural gas and oil industry in a variety of roles, including Vice President of U.S. Industry and Regulatory Affairs and Vice President of the Data Logic Division at IHS. She also served as the International Managing Director for the IHS Energy Group.

As a result of her dedicated efforts, Carol was nominated for Oil Woman of the Year. She was an active member of 20 state and four federal natural gas and oil associations, and served as the natural gas and oil industry representative on Governor Perry's Texas Task Force to encourage trade and promote business between Mexico and Texas.

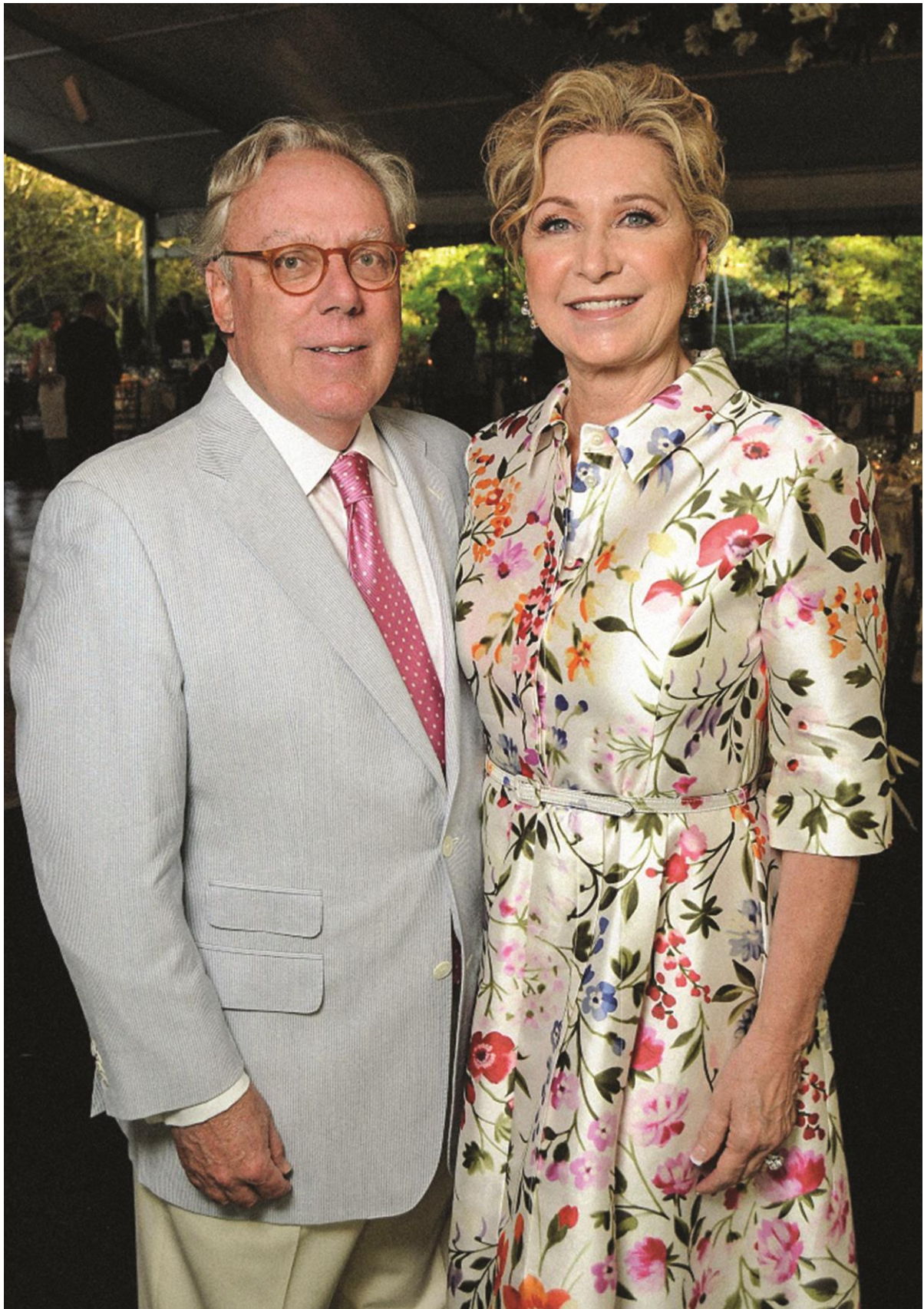
In 2008, Carol retired from the natural gas and oil industry, but has not slowed down one bit. These days, Carol dedicates much of her time supporting various charities and fundraising events with her husband, Michael C. Linn. In November 2015, she and Michael agreed to chair Texas Children's Hospital's capital campaign with a goal of raising \$475,000,000. As of November 2018, the campaign finished two years early with a total of \$578,000,000 raised.

Michael C. Linn has served as President & CEO of MCL Ventures LLC, an oil & gas/real estate investment firm since 2012. He was the founder, former Chairman, CEO, President and Director of LINN Energy, LLC, which he founded in 2003. The Company became the first publicly traded E&P, LLC in 2006.

He is currently on the Board of Directors and is Chairman of the Compensation Committee for Nabors Industries, Ltd, Board of Directors and member of the Compensation Committee for Black Stone Minerals, L.P., is a Senior Advisor for Quantum Energy Partners, LLC; Board of Managers for Cavallo Mineral Partners, LLC, Board of Directors and member of the Compensation Committee and Audit Committee for Jagged Peak Energy Inc., Board of Managers for Wireline Holding Company, LLC and most recently, Board of Directors for CRP XII Holdings, LLC. He was formerly on the Board of Directors and Chairman of the Conflicts Committee for Western Refining Logistics GP, LLC and Non-Executive Director and Chairman of the SHESEC Committee for Centrica plc.



In 2013, Carol and Michael were presented with the Woodrow Wilson Award for Public Service. They have also been honored by The Center for Hearing and Speech for couples who have made an enduring impact through their leadership in the energy industry and commitments to the Center's children with hearing loss in 2013, and the Houston Children's Charity and Krist Samaritan Center in 2010, when they were bestowed with the Samaritan Spirit Award for their charitable work in the Houston community and beyond. From 2014 through 2019, Carol and Michael co-chaired the Teach ALL Children (TEACH) fundraiser. TEACH provides educators with intensive training in classroom culture, focusing on de-escalation, conflict resolution, nonverbal communication, and building the self-confidence of every student.



## 2021 National Philanthropy Day® Awards Application Checklist

*Please complete and sign a checklist for each application or category.*

Organization Name: Texas Children's Hospital

Nominee: Carol and Michael Linn

Honoree has been notified of application

Nominee is available to be present on 11/15

Category: Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser

### Narrative:

Three pages

One inch margins

Single spaced

Criteria met and described in application

12 point font

### Letters of Recommendation:

Signed by outside organizations

Minimum two recommendations provided (*cannot be signed by board chair or development staff member*)

Included in pdf

### Short Bio:

200 words or less

Included in pdf

### Long Bio

500 words or less

Included in pdf

### Photo:

3.5 megabytes

Jpeg format

### Logo (Outstanding Corporations only):

- Jpeg format

### Budget (Outstanding Fundraising Program Only):

- Nonprofit's budget submitted in pdf

- Specific fundraising program budget submitted in pdf

### Nominee's membership in AFP (Outstanding Fund Raising Executive Only)

- Confirmed membership

*All applications are due to APF by 5pm on May 31. No exceptions will be made.*

Application Completed By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature