



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## **KAREN G. KOCHER**

### **EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT & CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**

Karen's career with the YMCA of Greater St. Louis began in 1988 after spending the previous 10 years with the YWCA and in the private for-profit sector.

Karen was hired as Youth Program Director for the South Side/Carondelet YMCA. Job responsibilities included school-age childcare, camp and teens. In 1992, she became a Senior Program Director and a few months later was promoted to Associate Executive Director.

In 1994 Karen was named Executive Director for the Northwest County YMCA. In addition to running the branch operation, she was given the responsibility of building a new facility in Maryland Heights. Karen earned the title of District Vice President in 1997, and she supervised the Emerson, South Side and Carondelet Family YMCA branches. In addition, she had Metro responsibilities for board development.

The Edward Jones Family YMCA in Maryland Heights became a reality in 1999 with Karen at the helm. The branch had been built as a result of Karen's securing a \$1 million gift from the Edward Jones Company, which included naming rights.

In 2002 Karen moved to the YMCA corporate office as Senior Vice President of Operations and was promoted in 2004 to Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer where she continues to serve the St. Louis Association providing leadership guidance to 20 operations. She has a B.S. in Education and a M.A. degree in Supervision.



#### **YMCA OF GREATER ST. LOUIS**

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