

# Community Bridges - ALP-NC

## Team Member Biographies

Kelly Friedlander, MSW, MPA

Chief Executive Officer

Identifies as: She/her

An advocate/[ally/accomplice](#)



Kelly Friedlander, MSW, MPA (she/her), is the founder and CEO of Community Bridges, where she leverages her deep expertise in stakeholder engagement and advocacy for managed long-term supports and services and Home and Community-Based Services. With a rich career spanning over 18 years, Kelly has dedicated herself to advocating for person-centered approaches and improving outcomes for organizations and individuals within the intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) community.

Kelly's journey began as a Direct Support Professional, a role that laid the foundation for her lifelong commitment to inclusivity and empowerment for those with disabilities. Her extensive experience includes significant contributions to advocacy, policy analysis, and program development, making her a strategic problem-solver known for facilitating impactful outreach and cross-agency collaborations.

At Community Bridges, her innovative approach characterizes Kelly's leadership to building more inclusive communities. She has been instrumental in shaping the organization's strategic direction, ensuring that projects and initiatives actively involve stakeholders from diverse backgrounds. Kelly's ability to draw connections between people, policies, and practices has established Community Bridges as a strategic partner for change in the IDD field.

Outside of her professional endeavors, Kelly finds joy and inspiration in connecting with nature and giving back to her community through volunteer work. Her dedication to creating a more equitable and inclusive world for individuals with disabilities is not just her career; it's her passion.

## Cameron Kempson, M.Ed.

Director of Education

**Identifies as:** She/her

A person with lived experience, ally,  
advocate; she/her



Cameron Kempson (she/her) holds the esteemed position of Director of Education at Community Bridges, where she brings over three decades of dedicated service in the disabilities and mental health sector to her role. Her career is distinguished by her commitment as an educator, consultant, ally, and advocate, with a concentrated focus on fostering equitable, inclusive and community-based best practices.

Throughout her career, Cameron has been instrumental in developing and piloting innovative programs that support inclusivity and accessibility. Her most notable contribution is being the co-founder of Tech First SHIFT. This pioneering initiative is the first nationally recognized education and accreditation platform dedicated to advancing and standardizing Technology First best practices and programming. Under her guidance, this platform has set new standards in the field, making significant strides toward integrating technology to empower self-determination by individuals with disabilities.

In her capacity as Director of Education, Cameron is responsible for strategic development and provides critical oversight for the Ability Leadership Program at Community Bridges. Her leadership in this role underscores her commitment to empowering individuals with disabilities through education and leadership training.

A hallmark of Cameron's approach is her capacity to collaborate with self-advocates as subject matter experts to ensure that programs are person-driven, reflecting the aspirations of the individuals they engage. This ethos is central to her work, ensuring that the programs she oversees are effective and deeply resonant with the communities they support.

Cameron's passion for education and commitment to social justice are woven daily into her work at Community Bridges as she continues to break new ground within the organization and the broader community it serves.

## Kelly Woodall

Co-Director: Engagement

Ability Leadership Program - NC

**Identifies as:** She/Her  
PWCP Person with Cerebral Palsy



Kelly Woodall stands as a beacon of advocacy and education within the disability community, currently making significant strides as the Co-Director of Engagement for ALP-NC. Her journey into the realm of disability advocacy commenced during a pivotal internship with the Governor's Advocacy Council for People with Disabilities, now Disability Rights North Carolina, where she discovered her passion and purpose.

Residing in Raleigh, NC, Kelly navigates life with Cerebral Palsy, yet her spirit remains unbridled. Armed with a B.A. in Psychology obtained in 2005, Kelly has further enriched her arsenal with specialized certifications, notably as an ADA trainer and "Upwards to Financial Stability" Curriculum trainer. Her recent accolade as one of North Carolina's inaugural Peer Mentors is a testament to her dedication and expertise in the field.

In her role as ALP-NC's Co-Director of Engagement, Kelly is the architect of the program's outreach strategy, masterfully crafting and executing plans that elevate ALP-NC's presence and impact. Her prowess in public speaking is instrumental in amplifying the program's voice, translating ALP-NC's mission and achievements into narratives that resonate with diverse audiences. Kelly's leadership in event management and her skill in weaving personal stories into powerful advocacy tools significantly enhance ALP-NC's visibility and connection with the community.

Inspired by the legacy of those who paved the way, Kelly is driven by a deep-seated desire to leave an indelible mark on the advocacy landscape. Her work is not just a profession but a calling—to empower, to fight for equity, and to embolden others to embrace their potential with courage and conviction.

# Hannah Shumaker

Co-Director: Programming

Ability Leadership Program - NC

Certified Peer Support Specialist

**Identifies as:** She/they  
AuDHD, IDD and mental health lived  
experience



Hannah Shumaker is a Co-Director of the Ability Leadership Program, focusing on programming culture, content, and accessibility.

She joins the team from the ancestral lands of the Shakori, Eno, and Sissipahaw peoples, between the Eno and the Haw rivers. She is a Certified Peer Support Specialist, a graduate of City University of New York's Master's Certificate in Disability Studies, and will complete a Master's of Education in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at North Carolina State University in May of 2024.

Hannah's first role in Peer wellness work was with a teen health initiative more than 25 years ago, starting off a lifelong commitment to effective, community-led public health interventions. This theme connects her work in disability-focused peer collaboration, therapeutic counseling, and consulting. Throughout her endeavors, Hannah strives to center perspectives and needs that are systematically marginalized and oppressed.

Hannah relies heavily on frameworks for radical accessibility, collaborative problem solving, decolonized culture-building, cultural reverence, and sustainable change work. She draws on these tools, among others, to craft liberatory spaces and connect people across power disparity, while maintaining attention to personal nourishment.

At Community Bridges, Hannah is leading the Programming side of the Ability Leadership Project. She strives to build a space of belonging for current and prospective users, while holding space for the flexibility needed to meet the needs of new participant Leaders. Hannah enjoys creating new connections within communities, bringing ease to challenges and dismantling barriers through mutually beneficial solutions.

Hannah is committed to a future in which all individuals have full access to spaces of belonging. Outside of work, Hannah enjoys taking long walks in the woods, gardening, and playing the ukulele.