



# Board of Directors Application

Thank you for your interest in serving as a member of the Board of Directors of Hands Across The Water, Inc. Hands Across The Water is a Washtenaw County-based provider of foster care and adoption services (international, infant and state ward/waiting child), choice-based pregnancy options counseling and behavioral health programs serving families throughout southeast Michigan.

*Please return the completed application and resume/CV to Hands Across The Water, Inc. att: Board President at 781 Avis Drive, Suite 200, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108 or by email to [BOD@hatw.org](mailto:BOD@hatw.org). This application will be kept confidential and on file at HATW's office. Applications are used by the board of directors to identify and evaluate potential board candidates. If you have questions about this form as you are filling out your application, please contact our office at 734-477-0135 and ask to speak to the executive director.*

## Serving on the Board of Directors

- Because of the nature of our work and to protect our vulnerable clients, every Board member undergoes the same background checks our staff are required to pass (child abuse, criminal background and sex offender).
- Board members meet quarterly (since the start of the pandemic, these meetings have been held virtually although a return to in-person meetings may be considered in the future)
- Board members should be prepared for quarterly meetings by reviewing agenda packet materials
- Although HATW's Board does not have working committees, members should be prepared to communicate with each other and the executive director as needed outside those meetings by phone and email.
- A professional background in child welfare is not required, but a passion for improving the lives of children and families of all kinds is a must.
- We strongly encourage people of color, people who identify as LGBTQ and those with lived experience in foster care system or adoption triad to apply.
- Minimum 3-year term commitment

# HATW's Mission

Hands Across The Water supports and empowers children and families through inclusive, strength-based services.

# HATW's Vision

We envision a community where every child is valued and has a safe home and loving family where they can thrive.

# HATW's Beliefs

HATW is committed to providing ALL youth and families served a safe, healthy, inclusive, and affirming environment. HATW personnel are prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, age, height, weight, familial/marital status, mental or physical ability, socioeconomic status, military service obligation, veteran status or any other basis protected by federal, state, or local laws.

## CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name:

Position/Title:

Company:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Telephone:

Email:

Educational Background:

Work History:

Community Activities:

Other Memberships, Achievements, etc:

Other demographic information you would like us to consider (e.g. experience living in foster care, serving as a foster parent, experience within the adoption triad as a birth parent, adoptive parent or adoptee)

# BOARD CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. What interests you about joining the Board of Hands Across The Water?
2. Are you willing to give time, energy and resources to support HATW's mission? Please explain,
3. What specific skills/talents would you bring/contribute to the Board of Directors group?
4. Do you have experience with fundraising? If so, can you describe your previous experience?
5. Do you have previous experience with other nonprofit organizations in any capacity? Please explain.
6. What can we do to ensure that your participation is meaningful, fulfilling and rewarding?
7. Is there any anticipated reason you may not be able to commit to a minimum of a 3-year term?