

### LORI COHEN

**BOARD CHAIR, PACE CENTER FOR GIRLS, INC.  
COLLIER AT IMMOKALEE**

Once a PACE girl, always a PACE girl. Just ask Lori Cohen.

The board chair for PACE Center for Girls in Collier has served on the PACE board in just about every role possible, culminating with her new position. "I got involved with PACE shortly after I retired. I was pointed in the direction of PACE from a prior board member," said Cohen, who has served on the board for 6 years as secretary and vice chair.

She quickly grasped the importance of PACE's work in the community, and has embraced it as her own.



Lori Cohen

"I believe in the work that we do with my heart and soul. I believe all the people involved with PACE, the staff and community at large, make an enormous difference in the world."

PACE provides girls and young women an opportunity for a better future through education, counseling, training and advocacy. The PACE Center in Immokalee is celebrating its 16th anniversary this year.

"I'm responsible for the effective management of the entire board, residing over meetings, creating the agenda, and working with everyone toward a common goal," Cohen said of her new post.

She has also served as Executive Director of Temple Shalom of Naples and reads weekly for the blind on WGCU's Radio Reading Service.

And she's hoping to help as many PACE girls as she can.

"Once a girl goes through the system, they're a PACE girl. We watch after them for many years after they leave the center. If they need to return they always can," Cohen said. "Our girls have been hit very hard by life's injustices. I wouldn't be here if I didn't believe we change lives every day. I want to continue to be a part of that."

**Information:** [www.pacecenter.org](http://www.pacecenter.org) or call 239-842-5406.

### PAIGE SIMPSON

**ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF FUNDRAISING  
AND EVENTS, DAVID LAWRENCE CENTER**

Paige Simpson has made a career of event planning, notably as one of the most respected local wedding planners.

Now, she hopes to use her expertise and personal experiences dealing with depression and anxiety, to help the David Lawrence Center and Foundation and the children, adults and families it aids. The Center is Collier County's only nonprofit mental health and substance abuse treatment facility.

"Starting my new journey with the David Lawrence Center has been very rewarding and educational," said Simpson, whose previous stops include the Bellasera Hotel, Naples Hilton and the Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club.

Simpson will be responsible for developing, implementing and optimizing special events for the Foundation, including marketing, volunteer recruitment, logistics planning and execution, and on-site management.

Paige is a graduate of Purdue University, with a degree in Hospitality Management. Paige previously served on the David Lawrence Foundation's signature, destination-themed annual gala committee.

"At the Center I am appreciated and I feel I have been given the initiative to get things accomplished," she said. "It's mind-boggling that one in four people will be affected with mental illness. I believe I'm an altruistic person and have always loved working where new challenges and situations are presented continuously. It makes me focused and allows me to be creative."

**Information:** [www.davidlawrencecenter.org](http://www.davidlawrencecenter.org) or call 239-455-8500.



Paige Simpson  
photo Erik Kellar

### TAMIKA SEATON

**SENIOR DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, THE SHELTER  
FOR ABUSED WOMEN & CHILDREN**

Tamika Seaton is from Los Angeles, but you wouldn't know from her love of Southwest Florida.

"It's a rat race there," said Seaton of Los Angeles. Seaton was recently named senior development officer for the Shelter for Abused Women & Children. "I needed a change of pace."

Seaton migrated to Naples 11 years ago and immediately rooted herself in the community. She earned a bachelor's and master's degree in management from Hodges University and worked for the city of Naples as the public information officer.

When she heard about the opportunity at the Shelter, she leapt.

"I made the move because of the impact this organization makes on the community," Seaton said. "To change lives, just to get them back on their feet. It's all about empowerment. Not giving a handout, but a hand up."

Seaton's mark on the community has already been noticed. She received the Gulf Shore Business 40 Under 40 Award last year, the 2011 Hodges University Founder's Award and the 2010 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Collier County Branch Lifeblood Award. She relished the opportunity to bring her talents back to the nonprofit community.

"I don't have the money, but I have the time," she said. "It's so satisfying. Letting people know that you have someone on your team when you need someone to turn to."

**Information:** [www.naplesshelter.org](http://www.naplesshelter.org) or call 239-775-3862. **TJ**



Tamika Seaton

\* Do you know someone who should be included in the people to watch? Send your nomination to [news@naplesnews.com](mailto:news@naplesnews.com). Be sure to include contact information for the individual and why you think they should be featured.