

Into Abba's Arms Board of Directors

Jane Gravis, Founder



Jane Gravis, Founder and CEO
Into Abba's Arms Foundation

Jane graduated from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas and began her career as a dental hygienist in Port Neches. Shortly after moving to Sugar Land, she began attending Sugar Creek Baptist Church. In 1997, after a dream about Africa, Jane felt called to travel to Kenya with a medical mission team from her church.

During the trip, Jane witnessed the deplorable conditions facing Kenyan orphans, and upon returning to the states, she could think of nothing else. She felt the Lord leading her to build a home for the orphaned children of Kenya, and nearly 20 years (and 56 children) later, the organization she founded is considered a hub for Christian ministry in the central highlands of Kenya.

In addition to providing a home for double orphans and introducing them to the love of Christ, Into Abba's arms is the sole provider of clean drinking water for its surrounding community, hosts an annual pastors' conference, and provides minor medical care for its neighbors. Visiting teams to Into Abba's Arms also provide educational programs for area schools, police, and hospital personnel.

Kathleen Curnutt, Chairman



Kathleen Curnutt
Controller
Small Steps Nurturing Center

Kathleen Curnutt is the Controller at Small Steps Nurturing Center, a non-profit preschool that provides early childhood education and social and emotional support for economically at-risk children aged two through six in Houston, Texas. Kathleen is responsible for managing day-to-day activities and procedures related to all financial and accounting functions, including but not limited to financial accounting and reporting, accounts payable, budgeting, cash management, external audits, payroll, and restricted funds. She works closely with the organization's Executive Director, Board of Directors and Development staff.

Kathleen actively volunteers for and serves on the Board of Directors of Into Abba's Arms, a non-profit children's home in Kenya managed in The Woodlands, Texas. She has traveled to Kenya on numerous occasions to develop relationships with the children, mentor and tutor, assist with various chores, and prepare fun activities and outings off-site. Kathleen has a true passion for fulfilling God's work in serving His precious children and a strong motivation to positively influence the lives of others.

Kathleen earned a BBA degree in Accounting, graduating magna cum laude, and a Master of Science in Marketing degree from Texas A&M University. She is an avid Texas A&M football fan and enjoys traveling, volunteering and spending time with her husband.

Timothy Fitzsimmons, Vice Chairman



Timothy Fitzsimmons
Operations Manager (Retired)
Anadarko Petroleum

Tim has been married to his beautiful wife Kim for 38 years who together have three children, and one grandson. After 42 years in the oil and gas business, Tim fills his days attending seminary at Dallas Theological Seminary (Houston), and serving on two Christian ministry Boards of Directors. Tim currently attends Woodsedge Community Church in the Woodlands, Texas, where he has been involved in the praise and worship team, international ministries, financial counseling, and teaching Bible classes.

Tim holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management from LeTourneau University, a Master of Arts degree in Global Leadership from Azusa Pacific University, and a Professional Certificate in Process Management, from Colorado State University. Tim is trilingual – English, Spanish and Portuguese – he loves learning about other cultures having traveled to 5 continents and 26 countries. He is an avid Oklahoma Sooner football fan and enjoys, golf, surfing, reading and an occasional movie.

Elissa Adams, Secretary



Elissa Adams
Interior Designer
NMG Workspace Solutions

Elissa lives in Houston and works at NMG Workspace Solutions where she is a manager of interior construction projects for healthcare facilities in the Middle East. She has been designing and managing renovation projects at NMG since she graduated from Texas Tech University in 2012 with a Bachelor of Interior Design.

Elissa enjoys spending her free time with her soon to be husband, Tyson. Their favorite weekend activities are long bike rides around downtown Houston, trips to the park with their dog, Piper, or anything else outdoors.

Elissa first visited Into Abba's Arms in Kenya in 2010 and her initial interest quickly became a passion. She has been involved with IAA ever since and currently makes a visit on a yearly basis. Spending time with the children and staff is always a highlight of her year and Kenya holds some of her favorite memories.

Banks Chisum



Banks Chisum, President
JB Chisum Company, Inc.

Banks Chisum was born in Leakey, Texas, a town of less than 500 people. From a humble background, Banks found his career early in life and completed his first residential spec home shortly after turning 18. This led him to establish JB Chisum Company, Inc., a commercial construction and development company.

Banks recognizes his abundance of blessings, and remembers from childhood how his father demonstrated the importance of serving others. His father's influence was instrumental in leading Banks to employ his practical business and communication skills in various organizations and ministries across the globe.

Banks is an active member of First Baptist Church in Wimberley where he has served as a teacher in Sunday school and in music ministry. He currently holds a position on the International Missions Committee.

Banks takes his interest in the community a step further and serves as the vice president of Wimberley Fire & Rescue. As such he witnessed first-hand the devastating floods of 2015 - one of the worst natural disasters in the history of central Texas.

In his spare time, you will likely find Banks either on the streets of San Antonio surrounded by the homeless as he works with *Taking It to The Streets*, a ministry based in Boerne, Texas or exploring a new country and culture. He also enjoys spending time with family and friends back home on the banks of the Frio River.

