

Amy Klaben, Founder and Principal, Strategic Opportunities
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Amy D. Klaben has had a lifelong commitment and passion for advocating and improving the community in which she lives. Currently, as Principal of Strategic Opportunities, Ms. Klaben spearheaded, then became Co-Founder and Project Facilitator for Move to PROSPER, an initiative of The Ohio State University and community partners, to improve life outcomes for children and their mothers by creating opportunities for residential and financial stability through temporary rental support and comprehensive coaching that facilitates successful moves to higher resourced and safe communities. Under her leadership, Move to PROSPER created a national advisory committee and steering committee to guide the initiative, developed a coaching toolbox with advice and assistance of The Ohio State University's College of Social Work, raised funding for the planning and then launch of the pilot of 10 families, and raised community awareness of the need to provide rental support and coaching to women in low wage jobs. Ms. Klaben is also involved with advocacy on issues impacting inclusionary growth, economic development, poverty, housing, health, and education.

From 2000 to 2015, as President/CEO of Homeport, Ms. Klaben led all aspects of this large, multi-faceted non-profit organization that provides service enriched rental housing, revitalizes neighborhoods, and helps people to become and remain successful homeowners. Under her leadership, Homeport's portfolio grew from 830 to over 2,200 service enriched rental homes serving over 5,700 people annually, a majority of whom were single parent families headed by women. She directed the development and implementation of programs to assist residents in Homeport rental homes in achieving self-sufficiency and stability including: life skill coaching, out of school time educational programs, food access programs, and employment assistance. She spearheaded development and implementation of programming for the community including: homebuyer education, economic literacy, down payment assistance, eviction prevention, and foreclosure prevention, serving 2,000-2,500 people annually. Homeport also developed homes for sale and she oversaw neighborhood revitalization efforts and community building programs. During this time period, Ms. Klaben played pivotal role in the establishment of the Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio, a local coalition of nonprofit housing providers and funders of affordable housing. She was also active at the national level with Housing Partnership Network, NeighborWorks America and Enterprise Community Partners to support policy changes and funding for affordable housing and programs impacting women and children. Ms. Klaben practiced real estate law, first as an associate then as a partner, at Porter Wright Morris & Arthur from 1986 to 1999.