

# Kameron Partridge Hodgens

CEO,  
The Glasser Schoenbaum  
Human Services Center

THE GLASSER  
SCHOENBAUM  
HUMAN SERVICES CENTER

F	2-1-1 OF MANASOTA	I	GULF COAST LEGAL SERVICES
M	AARP FOUNDATION WORK SEARCH	A	HEALTHY START COALITION
J-1	ADMINISTRATIVE & CONFERENCE CENTER	H	INSIGHT COUNSELING SERVICES
H	BAYS FLORIDA	C-3	JEWISH FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICE
J-1	CHILDREN'S GUARDIAN FUND	K-3	LITERACY COUNCIL OF SARASOTA
G	COASTAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE CHILDREN'S SERVICES	B	MORE TOO LIFE
C	COASTAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE & FACT TEAM	N	THE SALVATION ARMY

Dr. Kameron Partridge Hodgens became CEO of the Glasser-Schoenbaum Human Services Center in 2014. The “campus of caring” houses 18 nonprofits serving children, youth, adults, and seniors. “I see my position as a convener and connector of nonprofits and individuals. I connect people to jobs, networks, and resources. The Center is a place of community and collaboration for the community at large. We serve those in need and, therefore, have the potential for true community change. When 41 percent of the area’s households are working full-time but living below poverty level, the Center is extremely important to meeting their many needs,” she says.



**L**eading a nonprofit organization is both challenging and rewarding with demands for fundraising, budgeting, programming, and managing staff and operations. When another nonprofit organization has the responsibility of the physical plant of 18 nonprofits, the challenges and rewards exist, but are different. Such is the case of the Glasser-Schoenbaum Human Services Center that houses 18 nonprofits serving children, youth, adults, and seniors. In 2014 Dr. Kameron Partridge Hodgens became CEO of the “campus of caring.”

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The Glasser-Schoenbaum Human Services Center is the result of a determined woman named Dr. Kay Glasser and her persistence in 1988 in asking Alex Schoenbaum to provide funding for her dream. Mr. Schoenbaum was in no hurry to bring the dream to reality without convincing data that the project was needed and feasible. Dr. Glasser, a previous professor of social work, answered his request for data; he responded to her request for funding; and the rest is history. Mrs. Betty Schoenbaum, who will be 100 this year, continues to be a strong supporter of the Center that bears her and her husband’s name.

Kameron volunteered in nonprofits as a teen, but received a traditional education in psychology and special education that was lacking in budgeting, accounting, investments, and managing people. One year after receiving her Master’s degree she returned to Sarasota where she was raised and became the Vice President of Programs and Services at Easter Seals Southwest Florida. The position filled the gaps in her education regarding nonprofit investing, donor development, budgets, managing 80 staff, and how to work with people from all walks of life. She was impressed with the Center when she toured it with Leadership Sarasota so she applied when the CEO position became available. Phil King, the previous CEO, had returned on an interim basis. She felt the position offered her the opportunity to help the community with a larger impact. At the time she and her husband were trying to conceive by IVF (in vitro fertilization) and wanted less stress in her life. After becoming CEO in October 2014, they learned the next month that they were expecting a child.

Kameron reiterates Dr. Glasser’s words in describing the mission of the Center: “to provide accessible and affordable service to low income people and to save agencies operational dollars so that they would have more resources for services.” This five-acre one-stop center houses 18 human service non-profit agencies in 14 buildings. The newest building, the Sally & Sam Shapiro Babies & Children’s Medical Center, opened in 2014. Kameron says, “Our business model is charitable. We charge our tenant partner agencies \$8.50 per square foot per year which covers approximately 50 percent of our annual expenses. Their rent includes all utilities, security, maintenance, cleaning, and building insurance. In 2016 the 18 agen-

cies served 45,500 individuals in our community through 97 programs delivered by over 180 staff.”

John Annis, Senior Vice President of Community Investment, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, says, “Whenever I spend any time with Kameron or chat with her on the phone or read a post of hers on Facebook, I think of the Schweitzer quote: ‘The purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others.’ She gets it. She’s the real deal and we are very lucky to have her in our community serving, showing compassion, and helping others. That alone is incredible, but you have to add smart, sincere, and trustworthy. I am definitely a fan of Kameron’s.”

The campus is bulging at the seams and needs remain such as the addition of four dental chairs for children with a partnership with the Health Department. Price tag: \$200,000 plus. Campus expansion through acquisition of contiguous property is on the wish list as eight nonprofit agencies are waiting to move to the Center. Securing large donations for these projects consumes much of her time and thoughts. Funding for the Center comes from rent (48 percent); investment returns (25 percent); and events, gifts, and donations from foundations (25 percent). An endowment fund was seeded by Dr. Glasser and the goal is to add to the fund. The Center’s staff consists of Kameron plus two full-time employees and one part-time employee. She says the staff and the Board are the key to the respect that the Center receives from the community.

“I use data to understand the whole picture and to ground me. I have a responsibility to be accurate and thorough. The Center took a community to build and to support with significant commitment from Dr. Glasser and Mr. and Mrs. Schoenbaum. It is an honor to be affiliated with Mrs. Schoenbaum and the Schoenbaum family. The Center is unique to Sarasota; it is not a regional or national center. Dr. Glasser wanted this for local residents who could have their needs be met at a one location. We receive no state, county, or federal funds and we do not compete with other nonprofits for donors,” Kameron says.

Kameron was raised in the Whitfield Estates area of Manatee County where she still resides and attended Saint Stephen’s Episcopal School. She earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology and special education from Florida State University and a master’s and Ph.D. in lifespan developmental psychology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She was recognized as the Public Citizen of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers—Sarasota/Manatee Unit in 2014 and is a 2015 winner of SRQ Magazine’s Women in Business Award. She returned to the area in 2007 to be near family including her brother Thad who has Down syndrome and is autistic. Her father Bill Partridge is an attorney and her mother Debbie started Teen Court with the Junior League. Kameron is married to Bart Hodgens, a clinical psychologist at Centerstone. They have a daughter Evelyn who goes by Evy. Her leisure time is spent with family. Some day in the future she hopes to be the CEO of a community or family foundation.

Kameron would like to be remembered for a good heart, a good thought, and someone who was patient, diligent, kind, and smart. 🍷

🍷 STORY: Carol Darling

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