



## Ms. Donna Kelly, CPC

Ms. Kelly has had 22 places that she has called home so far in her lifetime. She understands being displaced, transitioning, homelessness, and living in substandard housing.

She comes to us with 15 years of experience in Corporate America for a major healthcare insurance enterprise; however, she considers her greatest accomplishment as raising three beautiful, bright, and gifted children. Her prayer is that they will have an unquenchable desire to know and serve God and others all the days of their lives. She has strived to live out that example.

She has volunteered for many organizations, recently facilitating parenting workshops in underserved populations. Donna homeschooled her children for 16 years and was also an elementary school teacher in Northern Idaho. Donna has experience as a Case Manager for youth experiencing homelessness and substandard living conditions. She has worked in a supporting role with families in crisis due to a child with severe mental or behavioral challenges. Currently, Donna is a Certified Peer Counselor/Parenting Specialist working as a Community Coordinator in Substance Abuse Prevention and Education.

What inspires me the most about Zoe's Wings is that it gives help to some of the most vulnerable populations, single parent, children and our elders. It provides safe, stable housing for children to grow and be nurtured. Research collected by the McKinney Vento Act shows that children who lack adequate housing are at greater risk for mental, physical, behavioral, and substance use challenges.

How we treat our elders shows how we as a society value generational knowledge and wisdom. It leaves an impression on our youth, who are the leaders of today! Setting the expectation that our elders are to be respected and cared for, with basic housing at the top of the list of priorities, makes a great and lasting impression. As cognitive functioning and physical agility may be declining, it is crucial to have stable adequate housing for our more mature citizens to ensure thriving and vital community bonding.

Ms. Kelly has experience in Grant writing in the educational field, substance abuse and tobacco prevention, and working with a nonprofit for youth experiencing homelessness.