

# People Make the Difference

*The Operation Brightside Board of Directors is made up of six talented individuals who generously share their knowledge and energy to provide guidance and direction to the staff, ensure our programs are effective and that the organization remains fiscally sound. Meet our Board...*



John Caruso

**John Caruso** lives in the Hill neighborhood of St. Louis and owns multi-family property in the Southwest Garden neighborhood. John joined the Operation Brightside board in 1999 and serves as Vice-Chairman. In addition to Operation Brightside, John has been very active with other community service

organizations including The Saint Louis Ambassadors, Southwest Neighborhood Housing Corporation and the Southwest Garden Neighborhood Improvement Association. John also currently serves as a member of the City's Board of Adjustment.

John is the founder of St. Louis Sportswear, a promotional and career apparel business. For nearly 16 years, John operated his business in the city of St. Louis before selling in 1999 to one of his partners. John is a 1976 graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia with a double-major A.B. Degree in Political Science and Philosophy.



Richard Eaton

**Richard Eaton** joined the Board this year after many years as the liaison between Operation Brightside and the Soulard Restoration Group. The Neighbors Naturescaping Demonstration Garden was initially located in Soulard and was planted and maintained by the SRG Beautification Committee. Richard serves as

Chair of this committee and is also a Brightside Area Commander and Block Captain. Richard also participates each year in the plantings around City Hall and this year helped plant the new containers in Poelker Park.

Richard recently retired after 45 years with the Missouri public schools, 39 of those with Ladue School District where he chaired the Counseling Department at Ladue Horton Watkins High School. Richard received his B.S. Degree from Southeast Missouri State University, his Master's in Counseling and Psychology Education from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and his PhD. in Counseling and Psychology from Saint Louis University. Richard also serves on the board of the Soulard Housing Corporation, a trustee of the Lafayette Park United Methodist Church, a member of Mizzou's Flagship Counsel and a sustaining member of the University of Missouri's Jefferson Club.



Paul Liberatore

**Paul Liberatore** is a Financial Advisor with Citi Smith Barney. He has been in the wealth management business since 1997 and has spent his entire career in the financial and accounting profession. Paul is a C.P.A. and for 25 years was a partner in public accounting firms practicing in the areas of audit, income and estate

planning, and consulting for individuals, businesses and not-for-profit organizations. Paul graduated from Saint Louis University in 1972 with a B.S. Degree in Commerce specializing in accounting.

Paul was one of the founding members of Operation Brightside in 1982 and continues to serve as Chairman of the Board. He has also served on the boards of Alexian Brothers Hospital, the St. Louis Bi-State Chapter of the American Red Cross, the City's Industrial Development Authority, Planned Industrial Expansion Authority and the Employees Retirement System. Paul and his wife Betsy have been married for 38 years, have four children and three grandchildren.



Ken Nuernberger

**Ken Nuernberger** lives only one block from the Operation Brightside headquarters in the Southwest Garden neighborhood. Ken joined the Board in 2000 and with his vast experience helped us develop the donated building into office, storage and rental space.

In 1987, Ken founded his development and consulting firm. In 1999 he expanded the firm in partnership with Michele Duffe. Today, ND Consulting Group with its sister organization, Duffe-Nuernberger Realty, assist organizations committed to urban housing and economic development by providing development, financing and project management expertise for projects ranging from single- and multi-family developments to assisted-living facilities and retail centers. In addition to Operation Brightside, Ken has served on numerous boards including the City's Heritage and Urban Design Commission, Landmarks Association, and Downtown St. Louis Housing Committee.



*Ernest Smoot*

**Ernest Smoot** joined the Operation Brightside board in 2002. Ernest is a retired Real Estate Appraiser and worked with the City of St. Louis Assessor's Office, HUD and as a fee appraiser. For the past 20 years, Ernest has worked part-time in the Technology Department at Harris Stowe State University.

Ernest was born and raised in the city and is active in the O'Fallon Park

neighborhood where he has lived for nearly 40 years. Ernest is also on the board of the North Newstead Association, the St. Louis Office of Developmental Disability Resources and the City's Board of Equalization. Ernest is a proud husband, father and elder in his church, Cote Brilliante Presbyterian Church and a past member of the City's Board of Adjustment.



*Mary Stewart*

**Mary Stewart** joined the Operation Brightside board in 1999. Mary is an active member of the Saint Louis Hills Neighborhood Association volunteering for many of the neighborhood events throughout the year. Mary regularly participates in the Neighbors Naturescaping and Growing St. Louis plantings in the garden

at Clifton, Murdoch and Locke and can always be counted on to plant annuals at City Hall and daffodils on the highway. In addition to her service to her neighborhood and Operation Brightside, Mary is an award-winning volunteer with the Crisis Nursery and has worked with the at-risk children since 1995.

Mary has been a practicing attorney for the past 20 years after receiving her J.D. from Saint Louis University in 1988. She currently works in private practice at the Brunton Law Offices after working for many years as an in-house attorney for the Hartford Insurance Companies.