



Caren Croland Yanis
Croland Consulting | Philanthropic Advising

Caren is principal of Croland Consulting, a philanthropic advisory group that guides families, celebrities, and institutions in building a culture of purpose and legacy. She supports families in defining the clarity, focus, and impact specific to their interests, and creating a pathway to achieve them.

Caren is an advisor to the Ortus Foundation. Recent clients have included the Deepak Chopra Foundation, and the Aubrey & Marla Dan Foundation.

As President of Crown Family Philanthropies in Chicago, (2009-2016), she managed organizational redesign and growth, engaged multiple generations and family lines in policy building and decision making, and guided strategy in the U.S., Israel, and the developing world.

As Executive Director of the Oprah Winfrey Foundation, Oprah's Angel Network, and a member of Harpo's Senior Leadership Team at the height of the Oprah Winfrey Show, Caren was responsible for the charitable part of Oprah's Use Your Life Awards. She launched the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls in South Africa, and the Oprah Winfrey Boys and Girls Club in Kosciusko Mississippi, where Oprah was born. She led disaster recovery and rebuilding in the Mid-South following Hurricane Katrina that put fourteen hundred families back in homes.

Caren is a frequent keynote speaker at family council meetings, and wealth and estate planning conferences. Her focus is on deepening intergenerational engagement and social impact using a variety of assets and strategies. Keynotes, podcasts, and panel discussions have included Family Business Magazine's Legacy and Wealth Conference, Yale's Philanthropy Conference, and the Society for Trust and Estate Planners annual and regional conferences. She has been a guest on podcasts including The Heart of Giving (Better Business Bureau), Denton's, Alliance Bernstein, and Family Business Magazine's Legacy and Wealth Conference.

She is an adjunct professor at the University of Chicago Booth School in their Private Wealth Management program, and at the Spertus Institute. Caren chairs the board of The Poetry Foundation (which received a meaningful bequest from Ruth Lilly in 2002) and has guided it through significant organizational change. She chairs the strategy committee of the Impact Guild, and is a member of the Board of Visitors at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy and at the Women's Philanthropy Institute, a research organization focused on trends in giving. In her spare time Caren hosts salons that bring bold thinkers together for meaningful conversations. She has a passion for listening deeply, navigating challenges, and guiding people who have the potential to make the world a better place.