



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 coaches and supports clients in defining the clarity, focus, and impact specific to their interests, and creating a pathway to achieve them.

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 Foundations and a member of Harpo's Senior Leadership Team at the height of the Oprah Winfrey Show, Caren helped launch the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls in South Africa, and the Oprah Winfrey Boys and Girls Club in Kosciusko Mississippi. 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 podcast guest and keynote speaker at family council meetings and wealth and estate planning conferences. Her focus is on helping organizations develop healthy decision-making mechanisms, deepening cross generational engagement, and transformational social impact using a variety of assets and strategies.

Keynotes, podcasts, and panel discussions have included Family Business Magazine's Legacy and Wealth Conference, Divorce and Beyond Podcast, Yale's Philanthropy Conference, and the Society for Trust and Estate Planners annual and regional conferences.

She is an adjunct professor both at the University of Chicago Booth School's Private Wealth Management program, and at the Spertus Institute.

Caren is a field builder in philanthropy and media. She's a member of P150 and the Purposeful Planning Institute. She has maintained active roles with Indiana University's Lilly Family School of Philanthropy and with the Women's Philanthropy Institute. She is the Vice Chair of The Impact Guild; an organization focused on supporting leadership and creative talent across media platforms. She chaired the board of the Poetry Foundation, guiding it through significant organizational change during COVID.

Caren is an avid reader and in her spare time 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.