

# frontdoors

connecting arizona ■ photography ■ culture ■ society

May 2016

Volume 14 Issue 5

[www.FrontdoorsNews.com](http://www.FrontdoorsNews.com)

A portrait of Christy Moore, a woman with dark hair, smiling and wearing a white textured blazer over a black top. She is positioned in the center of the cover.

## Christy Moore

Leading the  
Valley's Leaders

blue & white

getting home

night for life



28

Maybe we are just trying to send a message to our families about what we really want for Mother's Day. Hint: It's anything and everything in blue and white Chinese porcelain.

**Mothers guide us and shape us. Heck, they even kick us in the rear end. The Mother of Leadership, Christy Moore is the momma bear to leaders across the Valley and she does it all without ever growling. How does that happen?**

12



# table of contents

the magazine

MAY 2016

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 5



32

**There's a way mothers can talk to one another and sometimes it's just a matter of who squawks the loudest.**



22

**How easy it is to take home for granted, that is until you don't have one. Homeward Bound has been leading a path back to the front door for Arizona families. Learn how to help them help our community**



**“I realized at an early age, that I could be part of the solution or sit on the sideline.”**

# The Mother of Leadership

## Valley Leadership's Christy Moore

It is May and the season for determining who is chosen to participate in the next Valley Leadership Institute class 38. The highly prestigious and coveted spots are hard to come by. Competition is fierce and not everyone will be invited to participate. There are references to secure, interviews to complete and then there is the waiting. Yes, that's part of the process and it can be fueled with anxiety. "We see so many truly amazing people wanting to move through our program, explains Valley Leadership CEO Christy Moore. "They come from all walks of life, across all parts of our community with different passions they want to pursue."

Valley Leadership was founded nearly 40 years ago by a small group of leaders who saw an impending dearth of leaders to take over from what appeared to be an aging cadre. As the city was growing, more corporate leaders were coming in from other parts of the country and they were not always familiar with the history and tenor of the region. One of the founders and Valley legend Bill Shover reflects, "We looked around the room and our leaders were getting old. We realized that we needed new leadership and had to start developing talent for the next phase of our community." Using models found in other cities across the nation, Valley Leadership was born. Over the course of nearly four decades VL has launched leaders into action including Ambassador Barbara Barrett, Secretary of State Betsy Bayless and Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton.

story by julia c patrick | photography by jh jennings



**“There are so many types of leadership. We now understand that diversity brings more voices to the table and that is ultimately how we drive better solutions...”**

**T**ruth be told, leadership in those days was often set in one style and not as open to community diversity as it is now. More often than not, leaders were seen as those who could bluster their way to the top with the loudest voices. “There are so many types of leadership,” explains Moore. “We now understand that diversity brings more voices to the table and that is ultimately how we drive better solutions for a variety of issues that face our community.”

“Leaders are not only found in the political sector,” adds Moore. “We have to find and cultivate leadership across our community in healthcare, technology, transportation, business, education, finance, media and culture.” Bringing together voices from different parts of the community, across a wide geography has been part of VL’s success.

“We really focus on building a diverse class each year that will become a cohort. As our VL leaders advance their passions, we want them to be able to accelerate their pursuits. This is not done alone. The more people they can connect and collaborate with, the better outcomes they have.”

C

hristy Moore knows this from personal experience. Born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada her path to leadership was hard fought and somewhat perilous. Admittedly raised in a family with plenty of challenges, Christy knew education would give her another path to take. After earning her Masters in Social Work, she found herself in the center of the leadership swirl with the Community Alliance Against Family Abuse. The nonprofit was, and still is, the leader in domestic violence shelter and prevention in northern Pinal County. On a daily basis, Christy led her team and the community through the gritty realities of abuse that she was all too familiar with.

“I realized at an early age,” reflects Christy, “that I could be part of the solution or sit on the sideline.” This commitment to service took her to focus on prevention strategies and education. From her offices in Apache Junction, she could see the difference her agency was making and how leaders in the community made it possible for the issues of domestic violence and abuse to be championed. At the age of 23 she was named CEO and opened the first domestic violence shelter in that part of the state.

Christy Moore’s career would take another momentous leap when she joined the Planned Parenthood of Arizona team. CEO Bryan Howard, a VL alum, encouraged Christy to apply for Valley Leadership. He identified her abilities to be strategic, compassionate and forward thinking as the right skills for the training which takes a full nine-month commitment. “I was so nervous about the whole process,” recalls Christy. “I knew it was tough to be selected and Bryan had warned me that you didn’t always get in on the first try. The application process was intense, including a rigorous interview.”

O

nce the VL Class 34 was announced and Christy’s name was on the prestigious list she was thrilled. “I remember running down the hall of the office yelling, ”I’m in! I’m in!” Only a few weeks later it was announced that Valley Leadership was searching for a new CEO. “I already knew that I wanted to be part of the VL family and whether or not I would join their administration, I would be involved in the organization.”

Dramatic changes occur dramatically. Christy applied for the executive position and was quickly named the new CEO and President of Valley Leadership.

With her curiosity of the community, ability to quickly connect people from all walks of life and a strategic approach to identifying issues and finding solutions, Christy has taken Valley Leadership to yet another level. As VL approaches its 40th year it boasts an alumnus of nearly 3,000 with



## behind the shot...

*Christy and Mitchell Moore were on their way to the airport for a quick trip to the South before the photoshoot took place. A visit with family and the chance to celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary was their travel inspiration.*

**Christy confides that Mitchell Moore is her “most trusted advisor.” The stalwart leader of Valley Leadership actually tears up a bit when describing Mitchell. “He is a partner in my passions,” she explains. Husband, friend, companion and sounding board, Mitchell Moore is a key executive at the Foundation for Senior Living where he serves as the chief administrative officer. The warm and funny gentle giant seems to be the perfect complement to Christy and the demanding life she leads.**

**Mitchell has a background in aerospace, defense and transportation. “He is patient and kind, yet extremely analytical,” explains Christy. “He gives me a different point of view at times, confirms my thought process and allows me to be who I want to be.” She follows up this description of Mitchell, with a soft sigh. “I just love him so much and his place in my world makes me a better leader.”**

**The two met in a downtown Gilbert restaurant more than 10 years ago. The intimate bistro was packed with diners and Christy was waiting to be seated. Mitchell was doing the same. Standing next to a dessert counter, with fanciful confections the two struck up a conversation. “This particular place has a knack for the creative use of, shall we say, naughty names for their desserts,” recalls Christy. “We were casually commenting on the dessert titles and laughing at the link between the names and after dinner sins.”**

**As it would happen, Mitchell’s table became available first. He quickly asked her to join him and the couple ended up having their first date right then and there. “I guess you could say he saw an opportunity, took a bold step and led us to where we are,” she observes. “That’s what leaders do.”**





83% of those still living and working in the Metro Phoenix area. She has launched LeaderLink which connects nonprofits to individuals who want to serve on boards and committees. “We link those in our community who can serve with organizations who are searching for leadership talent.”

**T**he innovative registry is one more way VL is connecting its leaders to nonprofits who are searching for specific talent sets. “We joke that LeaderLink is a type of dating service,” adds Christy. “We had proprietary software designed to create profiles of both individual leaders as well as nonprofits. Using key indicators when we find a match, the leader and nonprofit are notified. From there, they can see if there is a deeper fit for board service.”

Additionally, Valley Leadership hosts the Man and Woman of the Year awards. Now approaching seven decades of celebration, the prestigious accolade is perhaps the highest honor a Phoenician can receive. The list of awardees reads like a *Who’s Who* of the Valley’s timeline. The annual event draws hundreds of the Valley’s most engaged luminaries to fete the achievements of that year’s awardees.



**“ I am so privileged to be with well-informed, well-connected leaders on a daily basis. It is inspiring and it gives me hope for our future.**

**V**L has added a new and innovative program called Valley Leadership Advance. Designed for emerging leaders who may be new to civic engagement or even new to Arizona, the curriculum is a pathway for new leaders. “We focus on three core elements: community orientation, tactical leadership skills and connecting, while retaining Arizona’s top talent.” The class is designed to help these leaders understand the history of the state’s explosive growth, our unique issues and the leadership who has been and is currently involved.

To complete the circle of developing leadership, Christy Moore and her team also run Valley Leadership Youth, open to 15 to 17 year olds. “This training program involves high school students who have shown an aptitude for leadership and connects them to what is going on in our community,” she explains.

“We take a deeper dive into the Valley’s philanthropic community with full day training sessions that get the kids involved in actual hands on projects.” The intensive program is offered each spring and requires the students to participate in Saturday workshops. “It is a commitment that teaches them how to collectively allocate thousands of dollars into the philanthropic community and it is so inspiring to see our next generation of leaders being cultivated.”

**W**ith all that moves across her world of high level leaders, which often translates into strong personalities, you might think Christy is a loud leader. Yes, she has a seat at the table and calls upon the high levels of leadership in the Valley. Political, corporate, social or philanthropic, Christy Moore is at the center of public discourse. “Valley Leadership allows me to speak my truth and be authentic,” she explains.

With each VL class this seems to empower her as well. “I am so privileged to be with well-informed, well-connected leaders on a daily basis. It is inspiring and it gives me hope for our future.”

Mother’s Day signifies a celebration of giving birth and that is what Christy Moore does about this time each year. She graduates one group of leaders, pushing them from the nest so they can fly into action leading their community. At the same time, she is hatching a new group of fledglings who after a year of training will be able to soar with the best of them.

That’s what this Mother of Leadership does. She lines leader’s nests with nourishment, confidence and the skills necessary to fly. When this next VL class takes off, they will do so with stronger wings and our community is better for it.



**connect to Valley Leadership**

**[www.ValleyLeadership.org](http://www.ValleyLeadership.org)**

**[www.LeaderLinkAZ.org](http://www.LeaderLinkAZ.org)**