Gayla Wilson

Community Engagement Officer

Gayla Wilson serves as Community Engagement Officer at IM Houston, where she leads Volunteer Houston, one of the region's largest volunteer engagement platforms connecting individuals, groups, and companies with meaningful service opportunities throughout Greater Houston. She works closely with companies and community partners to develop volunteer strategies that support corporate social responsibility goals while addressing critical community needs.

Wilson joined IM Houston in 2018 following a successful 30-year career in the foodservice industry, where she served in regional sales leadership roles. Since joining the organization, she has held several positions, including Volunteer Houston Program Manager and Community Engagement Program Manager within Interfaith Relations & Community Partnerships.

Throughout her tenure, Wilson has helped strengthen relationships with faith communities, civic organizations, corporate partners, and elected officials while advancing volunteerism as a catalyst for positive community impact. She oversaw the iLead Youth Engagement Program, which brought together eighth-grade students and their parents or guardians for leadership development, service learning, and relationship-building across diverse faith and cultural backgrounds. She also helped lead two community-wide Vital Conversations through The Dialogue Project: *The Rising Tide of Hate* and *Empowering Equity: Addressing the Non-Medical Drivers of Health*. These facilitated dialogues brought diverse community members together to foster understanding, belonging, empathy, and collaborative action across differences.

A lifelong volunteer inspired by her mother's example of service, Wilson has dedicated her time to organizations including Child Advocates, Dress for Success Houston, CHILDREN AT RISK, and Bel Inizio. Originally from Oklahoma City, she relocated to Houston in 1996 and proudly calls the Bayou City home. Beyond connecting people to opportunities to serve, addressing food insecurity, especially among children, and fighting for social justice, she enjoys live music, spending time with her husband, family, and friends, trying new recipes, traveling near and far, and finding new ways to be a changemaker in one of the most diverse cities in the nation.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Volunteer engagement and strategy
- Corporate social responsibility partnerships
- Faith, civic, and corporate partnerships
- Community dialogue facilitation
- Youth leadership and service learning
- Regional sales leadership

AFFILIATIONS

- Volunteer Houston
- Child Advocates
- Dress for Success Houston
- CHILDREN AT RISK
  Former Board Member
- Bel Inizio
  Former Board Member