

# CCH Board Member

DECEMBER 2022

# Spotlight

Columbus Community Hospital



## Abbie Tessendorf

BOARD MEMBER

If you ask Columbus Community Hospital board member Abbie Tessendorf what her favorite part about living in Columbus is, she would say it's the sense of community and the variety of opportunities available.

Tessendorf and her husband, Travis, grew up in the local area but moved away to continue their education following high school. In 1998, Tessendorf returned to Columbus to raise a family after her husband completed chiropractic school.

**"People take care of one another here,"** she said. **"It's amazing how the city has transformed over the past few decades."**

Tessendorf is a social worker who has worked specifically with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault for the last 25 years. She currently is the supervisor at the Center for Survivors in Columbus and said she is passionate about working with youth, particularly around prevention and education.

**"My job has allowed me to work with many systems across our community and state, including law enforcement, child protective services, other social service agencies and schools,"** she said.

**"Through these experiences, I've learned when we work together, we can help tackle tough issues in our community."**

When the hospital's nominating committee first approached Tessendorf about becoming a board member, she was a little intimidated by the nine-year term, knowing she wouldn't agree to a commitment unless she could fully honor it. Because she was busy with her family and career, it was not an easy decision for her. But after talking with current board members, she could sense their purpose and pride in the hospital and its mission. She also realized that her perspective from working at a small, non-profit organization would be valuable alongside current board members' diverse skills and backgrounds. After some consideration, she accepted the nomination in May 2020 and will complete her term in 2029.

**"The board consists of some of the most intelligent, thoughtful and committed people I have ever worked with, and I have learned so much from them already,"** she said. **"They are not afraid to tackle tough issues and learn from one another, but most importantly, they listen to and respect each of us who comes with a**

**different perspective. The results are well-thought-out and effective solutions for the betterment of our community."**

While she currently doesn't hold a leadership position, Tessendorf serves on the board's nominating, quality and compliance and oncology committees.

Tessendorf is particularly proud of the hospital's fiscal responsibility and financial security, and she is excited to see CCH complete its Columbus Fieldhouse and expand its oncology services.

Tessendorf and her husband stay busy attending their three children's various activities. She also enjoys sports, photography, playing with her puppy Gus and watching documentaries.

**To learn more about the hospital and its board of directors, visit [columbushosp.org](http://columbushosp.org).**