



Board Member Biographies

Bill Commer is current Chairman of the Board of Free the Kids. Mr. Commer holds his Bachelor's degree in Construction Management and holds two Master degrees, including architecture. His company WJCA, Inc. specializes in design management and has completed over 2200 projects in 50 states. He has been instrumental as a design consultant for Free the Kids. He has been on the Board of Directors since 2002.

William Haggerty serves as Treasurer on the Board of Free the Kids and is managing partner of The Haggerty Group, an accounting firm he founded 22 years ago in Ridgewood, NJ. Mr. Haggerty is a Certified Public Accountant and a Registered Investment Advisor. He has been involved with a numerous of non-profits.

Dee Orlowski serves as Secretary on the Board of Free the Kids and is also the West Coast liaison for Free The Kids, as well as the Volunteer Coordinator for visits to Pwoje Espwa Sud. She has served in a multitude of roles with the organization, overseeing many fundraisers and has been with Free The Kids since 2003. She is also the Event Coordinator for a 4000 member church in Lake Forest, CA and comes from a Human Resources, Sales, and Management background.

Cynthia DeSoi, M.D. is past Chairman of the Board of Free the Kids and Medical Director of Pwoje Espwa Sud (PES) has been involved with and PES since 2000. Dr. DeSoi completed medical school at the University of Rochester. She then completed her residency and fellowship training in Chicago, with special training in Pediatric Nephrology in addition to Adult Nephrology. She is Board certified in Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Nephrology. She travels several times each year to southern Haiti to work, leading volunteer medical teams from across the U.S. and has a keen interest in developing preventative care practices for the children at PES. She also has a full time medical practice in Maine.

Doug Dittrick is past Chairman of the Board for Free the Kids and has been involved since its inception. After graduating from Ohio Wesleyan University, Mr. Dittrick became active in the cable and television industry and was extensively involved in the National Cable and Television Association from 1966 to 1990. He has served on the NCTA's executive committee and was elected chairman two consecutive terms. In 1982, he was named Executive of the Year by Cable Business Magazine and was presented the NCTA's Vanguard Award for outstanding contributions to the cable television industry in 1984. In 1986, Mr. Dittrick founded Douglas Communications Corporation II (DCCII) to acquire and operate cable television companies. He is involved in numerous charities and currently sits on the Board of Governors of the National Red Cross and is Chairman of the Valley Health System. He continues as President and CEO of DCCII which currently provides consulting services in the communications and chemicals fields.

Regina Abilies has been a member of the Free the Kids Board of Directors since it was founded in 1998. As an advocate of our efforts to assist orphaned and vulnerable children, she devotes her time to raising funds, developing partnerships, and increasing public awareness. For ten years, Ms. Abilies kept donors informed about the progress of Free the Kids and PES as the editor and writer of the newsletter. Currently she sits as Chair of the Public Relations Committee and also serves on the Logistics and Appropriations Committee.

Robert Morris, Esq. joined the Board of Free the Kids in January of 2009. Rob is a practicing attorney in Portland, Maine. Mr. Morris is a 1980 honors graduate of the University of Missouri at Columbia. In 1983 he obtained his law degree, again at Missouri University. Over the past twenty-five years, Mr. Morris has practiced primarily as a trial lawyer, with strong emphasis in the area of injury litigation. He is admitted to practice in the Federal and State Courts of Maine and Missouri, including the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. Mr. Morris is a member of the American Trial Lawyers Association, the Maine Trial Lawyers Association, the Maine and Missouri State Bar Associations and the Cumberland County Bar Association. Mr. Morris primary offices are in Portland and Brunswick.