

**Karen Charvonia, Vice President Board of Directors
& Director, Fundraising Committee**



Karen assumed the role of Fundraising Committee Director in August 2007 and now serves as interim Vice President for the Board of Directors.

Growing up as the adopted, only child of a Marine Corps Pilot—a Veteran of four U.S. wars—Karen traveled all over America and therefore calls “nowhere” home. She went to three different high schools, bouncing back and forth between coasts. Karen finally settled in Arizona in 1983, where she has lived ever since.

Karen loves the desert, although she really is an “ocean person.” She collects dolphins and secretly longed to be a marine biologist. Unfortunately, Karen gets sea-sick, so that would not have worked out.

Karen was married twice and has no children. However, in 1994, she found her birth family and now has a great relationship with a very large family, to include a wonderful mother, six sisters, one brother, four aunts, two uncles, umpteen cousins and a zillion nieces and nephews. It is a wonderful story!

Karen works as a Financial Advisor for Wachovia Securities as a First Vice President-Investments. With 29 years' experience, she holds many registrations and provides complete investment planning for individuals and small businesses.

Karen considers one of her greatest strengths to be solving problems. She loves helping others and is very compassionate. In fact, many people refer to Karen as an “empath.” Although her empathy for people can feel overwhelming to her at times, this gift does come in handy when helping others.

Karen was introduced to Horses Help by Executive Director Gregg Goodman. Animals are one of her greatest passions, making Horses Help is a perfect fit. Karen is looking to get as much from the Horses Help experience as she is in giving.