

Health in Our Hands

MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES



HEALTH *in Our* HANDS



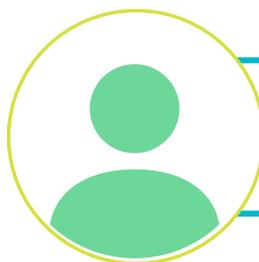
REACHnet
Research Action for Health Network



**Clarice "Chantel"
Dominique**

Clarice "Chantel" Dominique is a Program Coordinator with a strong passion for community engagement and patient-centered research. She is active in local community groups and finds purpose in building connections that improve health awareness and access. Clarice's interest in research was shaped by her own health journey—facing a cancer diagnosis at a young age and undergoing emergency surgery. This experience inspired her to better understand how care is delivered and to advocate for the importance of research participation.

As a HiOH Community Partner, Clarice is committed to spreading the word about the significance of PCORI and the value of patient engagement in research. She finds meaning in staying actively involved, gaining both a sense of empowerment and the opportunity to help others navigate their own health experiences. Clarice encourages patients to "check out all the facts," reminding them that informed participation can strengthen both individual and community health.



**Lorraine
Lewis Eames**

Lorraine Lewis Eames is a retired nurse with over 45 years of experience in health care. Based in Baton Rouge, she has witnessed firsthand both the challenges and opportunities within the medical system, particularly around the need for greater minority participation in research. Lorraine enjoys crafting, Bible studies, and crossword puzzles, activities that reflect her creativity and love of lifelong learning.

Her professional and personal experiences have shaped her interests in heart disease, kidney disease, obesity, and diabetes—conditions that deeply affect her community. Motivated by the lack of minority representation in research, she is committed to ensuring that diverse voices are included in studies that guide patient care.

As a HiOH Community Partner, Lorraine seeks to increase minority recruitment and participation in research, amplifying the importance of inclusion. She describes her involvement as "a sense of service" and reassures other patients of the safety and legitimacy of clinical research.



**Cathy
Glover**

Cathy Glover is a full-time teacher based in Baton Rouge, LA with a strong commitment to education, community, and improving health outcomes. In her free time, she enjoys reading, traveling, watching mystery programs, and spending time in nature—activities that help her stay curious, balanced, and inspired.

She has a personal and family history of type 2 diabetes and has been actively involved as a patient partner in research studies focused on diabetes management. Her lived experience brings valuable insight into areas such as diabetes care and weight loss, though she remains open to contributing to research across a range of health topics.

Motivated by a desire to bridge the gap between researchers and the communities they serve, she is passionate about helping researchers better understand patient needs and priorities. She hopes her involvement will contribute to research that improves health outcomes for individuals, families, and the broader public—because every voice matters in shaping a healthier future.



**Ramiro
Gonzalez**

Ramiro Gonzalez is a retired Police Lieutenant who remains active in his community through several social and volunteer groups. He participates in organizations for retired police officers, volunteers with a local Hispanic chamber of commerce, and contributes to an online community history group. His dedication to service continues to shape his involvement in community and health-related initiatives.

Ramiro's interest in patient-centered research stems from his own health journey. After suffering two strokes that left him disabled, he faced multiple health challenges—including high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, sleep apnea, and fatty liver disease. His introduction to medical research began through a hospital clinical trial, where researchers connected him to Health In Our Hands.

As a HiOH Community Partner, Ramiro hopes to use his lived experiences to help researchers better understand patient needs and improve care. He encourages others to share their stories and participate in research, reminding them that their insights can make a real difference—and may even help save lives.



**Debbie
Holmes**

Debbie Holmes is a Resident Leader for Scatter Site Housing and a passionate community advocate based in New Orleans. She is deeply engaged in her neighborhood, frequently participating in community meetings and workshops. In her free time, she enjoys reading and learning, always seeking opportunities to strengthen her knowledge and leadership.

Debbie's interest in patient-centered research is rooted in personal experiences with health conditions affecting her family and community, including dementia, drug overdose, hypertension, diabetes, and breast cancer. These challenges, along with the loss of loved ones, have motivated her to contribute to research that addresses health disparities and improves outcomes.

As a HiOH Community Partner, Debbie hopes to expand her understanding of research while sharing valuable insights with others. She is especially passionate about raising awareness around infant mortality, HIV stigma, and cancer. Debbie encourages patients to get involved, assuring them it's a rewarding way to impact future care.



**Dr. Rose
Thompson**

Dr. Rose Thompson is a retired educator and administrator with a PhD in educational research and leadership from Louisiana State University. She has over 40 years of experience working in schools, holding positions as a teacher, counselor, and administrator. In retirement, Rose has enjoyed building relationships across many community groups.

She spends her time volunteering, gardening, reading, traveling, and participating in medical and health research groups. Rose's experiences watching her friends and family members navigate health challenges have made her keenly aware of the misconceptions regarding health options and research. She is particularly interested in medical and mental health research.

As a HiOH Community Partner, Rose strives to make a difference in medical research by representing historically underserved populations. As someone with a love of learning, she wants to stay informed on and advocate for research that could significantly impact the quality and longevity of life. She believes that it is important to serve others and that everyone has the power to make a positive difference.



**Michelle
White**

Michelle White is a massage therapist and manicurist who brings a deep commitment to promoting wellness in her community. Through her work, she not only provides physical care but also serves as a trusted listener for her clients, fostering holistic well-being. In her spare time, Michelle enjoys staying active through various forms of physical activity and gardening. Her personal journey with weight management has fueled her interest in health topics such as weight control, nutrition, diabetes, and heart conditions.

As a HiOH Community Partner, Michelle is dedicated to sharing health studies and resources with her family and community, ensuring that important information reaches those who need it most. She values the knowledge she gains through participation, both for her own health and to better support others. Michelle encourages patients to get involved in research, reminding them that their voices can directly shape the care their communities receive.



**Nikia
White-Spots**

Nikia White-Spots is a Community Health Liaison and Anesthesia Assistant with a strong commitment to advancing patient-centered research and improving health outcomes for individuals and communities. In her free time, she enjoys reading, cooking, walking, and dancing—activities that help her stay balanced and engaged. Nikia actively involved in volunteering and participating in community groups focused on health, education, and advocacy, which allows her to remain closely connected to the communities she serves.

Nikia's health interests include chronic disease, mental health, maternal and child health, and health equity. Her passion for patient-centered research is rooted in her own lived experiences and those of people close to her. She has seen firsthand how gaps in communication and lack of representation can negatively impact patient care, often leading to unmet needs and miscommunication. As a Community Partner, her goal is to ensure that community voices are heard, valued, and reflected in research. She believes lived experience is essential to meaningful research and improved outcomes. Through her involvement with HiOH, Nikia has gained valuable knowledge, shaped research questions, and built meaningful partnerships. She is dedicated to building trust between researchers and communities and amplifying the message that community members are the real experts in their own health.