

## **WISER International Welcomes Melissa Katz as Board Chair**

*Tuesday, February 1, 2022*

We are excited to announce that, as of the start of 2022, longtime WISER champion and volunteer Melissa Katz has been named Board Chair of WISER International.

Melissa has been contributing to WISER's mission for more than 10 years. She first came to the organization when she, as a Johnson & Johnson employee, served as the emcee for the inaugural J&J - WISER fundraising gala that spurred our longest and most fruitful corporate partnership. Following that event, in 2013, Melissa traveled to Muhuru Bay for the first time. Since then, she has embraced WISER as a professional and personal passion. Her dedication extends to her family, as Melissa has now brought her husband, Michael, and daughter, Annie, to Kenya as well.

"I get far more back from WISER than I give. Every WISER girl fills me with hope; creating opportunities with them is its own reward," said Melissa. "I can never express the depth of my gratitude for what Sherryl Broverman has created here—a place to come together to improve the world—for me, for my family and for these girls."

Melissa receives the Board Chair reins from WISER Founder and Chair Emeritus, Dr. Sherryl Broverman, who has served as WISER International's Board Chair since its inception. During her tenure as WISER International Chair, Dr. Broverman oversaw pivotal growth periods for WISER in both the US and Kenya and led the organization from a small-scale volunteer effort to the international organization it is today. She will take on the formal role of Founder, remain a WISER International board member and continue as the Board Chair of the WISER NGO, based in Kenya.

"I am utterly delighted that Melissa will be the next chair of the US organization," said Dr. Broverman in a statement on the transition. "Melissa understands and deeply respects the work being done by the NGO and team in Kenya and is committed to helping our programs achieve the highest possible outcomes for the girls we serve. Her keen mind, sterling communication skills, and good humor make her an excellent board chair. I look forward to working closely with her as we grow the two organizations. I can't think of a better successor and partner as we enter a period of strategic growth."

Melissa has been a global leader in corporate communications in the healthcare space for nearly 30 years. Since 2013, she has been running her own consulting practice advising clients all over the world, providing strategic counsel, message mapping, internal communications, executive speaker coaching, and public relations strategy. Melissa has worked with the world's largest, most well-known companies and has given

two TED Talks. She has lived in Europe and the US and currently resides in Pennsylvania.

“This is an important moment in WISER’s history and I’m so thankful that we have, in Sherryl and Melissa, two outstanding leaders involved in the transition,” added WISER International Executive Director, Zack Fowler. “Our staff has already been impressed with Melissa’s eagerness to know the team on a personal level and to use what she learns to make our entire organization better.”

“This is a very exciting time for WISER as we head into the next phase of our mission,” noted Melissa. “We will reach more girls at younger ages, engage more supporters interested in having a meaningful impact, and shore up the future of the organization as we set our sights on the next generations of girls in need.”