



# KATHY EDERSHEIM

## KATHY'S SUCCESS STORY


### RELAUNCH STATS

Length of  
Career  
Break  13  
years

Nature of  
Career  
Break  Childcare

Time to  
Relaunch  1  
year

### CAREER TRAJECTORY

 Pre-Break Employer  
and Job Title

Smith Barney  
Financial Consultant

 Employer and Job  
Title at Point of  
Relaunch

Yale University  
Senior Director,  
Association of Yale Alumni

 Current Employer  
and Job Title

Impactrics  
President

### ABOUT

When Kathy chose to be home to raise her two children, she continued to volunteer at the Yale Club of New York City and then with Yale University directly. Kathy was fascinated with the concept of using her university affiliation to reach out to others and have a cultural exchange – an idea that grew into the Yale Global Alumni Leadership Exchange (YaleGALE). This led to her being hired by Yale as Senior Director, Global Travel Programs (or International Alumni Relations and Travel) with the Association of Yale Alumni (AYA).

Five years ago, Kathy started her own consulting firm, Impactrics, which works to build sustainable, purpose-driven communities, usually for alumni organizations.

### HOW IS VOLUNTEERING A PATH TO RELAUNCHING?

Being a parent does bring you certain expertise, skills, maturity, and wisdom that are useful in the workplace, but you get very little credit for it. Whereas if you are doing some volunteering, especially in which you're taking on those managerial roles, you might be learning the same skills, but you get a lot more professional recognition.

There are two ways to look at volunteerism as a path to relaunching. One way, the path that I followed, was volunteering for a cause that you believe in, that is intellectually stimulating and puts you in a community where you'll find people you want to be with. In this case, if an opportunity to work there comes along, it might be of interest because you believe in the mission as well as understand the operation.

The other path through volunteering is getting involved because you believe it will provide an opportunity to build a particular skill – for example serving as treasurer on a board for the financial management experience that is relevant to a financial position elsewhere. Or, if you already have a specific skill and you're looking to relaunch in a particular direction, a volunteer organization will allow you to put that skill to use to build your portfolio.

### WORKING IN ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY BUILDING, HOW DO YOU THINK RELAUNCHERS CAN OPTIMIZE THEIR CONNECTIONS FOR THE JOB SEARCH?

Relaunchers should reach out to friends and close connections (their community) and let them know they are in the process of looking for a job. They should be clear about the job opportunities they are looking for and ask for referrals for discussion and information. These informative connections are more likely to refer them to a broader network where job opportunities may exist.

Alumni associations can offer support and assistance to relaunchers, in the form of alumni connection platforms and career information sessions. Community platforms that include job postings, industry-oriented Facebook groups, and alumni events can provide an opportunity to meet people who are favorably inclined to help you because of the shared alumni connection.

*To read Kathy's full success story, visit  
[iRelaunch's Success Story Archive!](#)*