

Leadership in Action

FPA members inspire others in many ways, helping lead in their practice, local Chapter, community, family, and especially with their clients. FPA Leadership in Action helps highlight these “everyday” qualities of our members and remind us that we all have opportunities to lead.



NAME: Michelle Carney, member since 2001
COMPANY: L. Paul Kassouf and Company, Birmingham, Ala.

Continually Give, Continually Gain

A Leader in the Chapter

Michelle Carney has been an integral part of FPA of North Alabama for more than 10 years, having served in many capacities on the chapter’s board, most recently finishing a second presidential term. Her commitment to her chapter has led to remarkable achievements. She was instrumental in forming a partnership with a local homeless shelter to provide pro bono financial counseling to women residents. In recent years, she formed the award-winning Birmingham Financial Alliance, which is a partnership between FPA of North Alabama and various other groups. Under her leadership, her chapter’s membership continuously expanded and operated under budget, while always providing high quality programs.

Fully committed to developing relationships with peers and within the community, Michelle has recruited various chapter partners and sponsors, paving the way for exciting joint ventures and numerous public outreach opportunities. She has also successfully coordinated several Financial Planning Week events. “Michelle’s passion has always been to promote financial planning and make it more accessible, and her contributions are invaluable,” says a colleague. “She never misses an FPA meeting. She’s a woman of her word, committed to the highest standard of integrity.”

“Knowing that we can make a difference in this world is a great motivator. How can we know this and not be involved?”

– Susan Jeffers

Lessons Learned

- Continuously educate yourself on new topics and ideas
- Never fail to speak up when necessary; make a stand for something worthy
- Act with the future in mind

Michelle’s Leadership Portfolio

In addition to Michelle’s past leadership roles with FPA of North Alabama, she is currently serving her second year on the national Chapter Leadership Advisory Council. She has also served on the FPA task force for the FPA Chapter Leadership Conference. She is an active member of Prince of Peace Catholic Church and serves on the Pastoral Council along with several other committees. Michelle has always tried to have a successful work-life balance. She works primarily from home, which allows her to spend time with her two daughters and participate in their activities, such as volunteering at the school library and serving as co-leader of a Daisy Scout Troop. She is a CFP® practitioner and a graduate of the University of Alabama.

