TIESHA C. HENDERSON

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DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATIONS • EXECUTIVE MESSAGING • STRATEGIC STORYTELLING

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Development communications strategist, journalist, and institutional philanthropy professional with 13+ years in fundraising and experience in reported features, executive correspondence, donor profiles, annual appeals, campaign communications, and persuasive proposals. Trusted writing partner to university, museum, and school executives; personally secured more than $14M in philanthropic funding.

SELECTED COMMUNICATIONS EXPERIENCE

- Executive voice and correspondence: Wrote letters on behalf of the president of UT Southwestern Medical Center; wrote for and advised the CEO of the Perot Museum; currently develop communications for the Head of School at St. Philip's.
- Philanthropic narratives: Develop donor-centered proposals, cases for support, stewardship reports, and campaign messaging that connect institutional priorities with funder interests.
- Leadership and partnership messaging: Drafted letters of support on behalf of CEOs and partner executives; prepared customized talking points and donor briefings for senior leaders and board members.
- Editorial storytelling: Interviewed donors, organizational leaders, artists, and community members; wrote donor profiles, institutional news, magazine features, human-interest stories, and web and print narratives.

CORE CAPABILITIES

Presidential & Executive Correspondence • Donor Profiles & Feature Writing • Interviews & Research • Annual Fund Appeals • Case Statements & Proposals • Campaign Communications • Editing & AP Style • Print & Digital Content • Stakeholder Collaboration

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Grants Manager | St. Philip's School & Community Center, Dallas, TX | *Jul 2026–Present*

- Lead development of proposals, funder communications, and stewardship narratives spanning school programs, community services, and neighborhood revitalization; manage institutional grants strategy against a $1M annual goal.
- Write communications for the Head of School and collaborate with philanthropy, community advancement, finance, and program leaders to translate institutional priorities into compelling donor-facing materials.

Director of Foundation Giving | The Salvation Army of North Texas, Dallas, TX | *Jul 2024–Jul 2026*

- Led proposal and donor communications strategy for a 21-site service area spanning six counties and 4,000 square miles; secured $3.3M in institutional funding over tenure and supervised a grants team of up to four direct-report positions.
- Developed board and executive briefing materials, donor research, tailored talking points, and relationship-mapping resources to support cultivation and solicitation.
- Collaborated with executives, finance leaders, and regional program directors to shape accurate, persuasive funding narratives and impact reports.

Foundation Manager | Baylor Scott & White Dallas Foundation, Dallas, TX | *Nov 2021–Jun 2024*

- Developed proposals, impact narratives, donor correspondence, and stewardship reporting in collaboration with clinicians, researchers, major gift officers, and executive leadership.
- Secured $1.03M in funding, including a $460K United Way grant; managed communications and reporting for 50+ active grants annually.

Director of Grants & Foundation Relationships | Vogel Alcove, Dallas, TX | *Apr 2020–Nov 2021*

- Developed funder-facing narratives and campaign support materials that communicated the impact of services for children and families experiencing homelessness.
- Raised $1.1M in a single year against a $600K goal; partnered with the CEO on donor strategy, funding priorities, and campaign messaging.

Foundation Giving Manager | Perot Museum of Nature and Science, Dallas, TX | *Jul 2018–Apr 2020*

- Wrote for and served as a foundation advisor to the museum CEO, shaped proposals, cases for support, donor messaging, and funding concepts for science education and community outreach.
- Translated program and institutional priorities into targeted funding narratives; secured $1.2M in institutional support and increased giving from established funders by 10–20%.

Development Coordinator | UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX | *May 2015–Jul 2018*

- Wrote correspondence on behalf of the university president, donor profiles and articles for Center Times, annual fund appeal letters, and department chair letters for the endowed chair campaign.
- Secured $6.52M in funding; collaborated with physicians, researchers, department chairs, and development leaders to translate medical and research priorities into persuasive donor communications.

Communications Consultant | Mercer, Dallas, TX | *Feb 2014–May 2015*

- Created executive and employee communications explaining complex compensation, benefits, and organizational changes, supported focus groups and digital employee engagement initiatives.

Grants Writer | The Salvation Army, Dallas, TX | *Apr 2013–Feb 2014*

- Researched prospects and wrote proposals for community-service programs across a five-county region; secured $350K in funding.

ADDITIONAL JOURNALISM & EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Community Storytelling (Volunteer) | The Village Church | *2010–2014*

- I interviewed individuals and wrote first-person testimony-based profiles and stories for websites and print communications distributed across three campuses.

Features & Lifestyles Freelancer | Upscale Magazine, Atlanta, GA | *2007–2011*

- Reported and wrote magazine features, interviews, and lifestyle coverage spanning arts, health, money, travel, and culture; interviewed prominent public figures and artists, covered breaking news on deadline, and supported editors with research.

Volunteer Staff Writer | Epitome Magazine, Dallas, TX | *2009–2010.*

- I interviewed artists and community leaders; wrote cover features and human-interest stories for a local magazine.

Editorial Intern | The Dallas Examiner / Black College Wire | *2006*

- Reported and wrote nonprofit, culture, community news, and feature stories for print and online audiences.

On-Air Talent, Newscaster & Producer | WHOV 88.1 FM, Hampton, VA | *2005–2007*

- Wrote and reported radio news, produced a weekly talk show, booked guests, edited scripts, and created promotional copy.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts, Broadcast Journalism | Hampton University | Summa Cum Laude

Discipline of Frontline Fundraising, Plus Delta Partners • Member, Grant Professionals Association

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Microsoft Office • Salesforce • Raiser’s Edge / RE NXT • Tessitura • Blackbaud CRM • SharePoint • Jira