



News Release

Ann Hartley-Smith is Swim with Purpose's Newest Board Member.

Swim With Purpose Adds Lifelong Frankfort Resident and Community Advocate Ann Hartley-Smith to Board of Directors

Frankfort, KY — June 26, 2025 — [Swim With Purpose \(SWP\)](#), a charitable initiative committed to raising \$1M to support the restoration of the indoor aquatic facility at [Kentucky State University's \(KSU\) William Exum Center](#), has welcomed [Ann Hartley-Smith](#) to its Board of Directors. A lifelong Frankfort resident, community activist, and fitness professional, Hartley-Smith brings decades of leadership, service and personal passion to the role.

A mother of eight, including a daughter who is a Paralympic athlete with multiple national swimming records, Hartley-Smith has a diverse professional background, including impactful roles in the governor's office, Franklin County Schools and currently with the Public Health Department. Her true passion lies in health and wellness, having worked as a YMCA trainer and swim instructor, PE educator, and former owner of a local CrossFit gym, where she helped countless individuals achieve their fitness goals.

"Ann is deeply woven into the fabric of the Frankfort community. As a parent, professional, and passionate advocate, she brings invaluable insight and connections to our mission," said Sam Taylor, Chairman and Co-Founder of Swim With Purpose. "Her voice resonates across churches, schools, government offices, and fitness spaces—and that's exactly what we need to champion this vital project. Her tenacity and heart will help ensure that the aquatic facility becomes a cornerstone for both KSU students and the wider community."

"I've seen firsthand the transformational power of swimming," said Hartley-Smith. "My daughter, who is a paraplegic, began swimming as part of her therapy. What started as treatment quickly became a passion, taking us to pools all across Central Kentucky. Swimming changed her life—and it can change others' too. That's why I'm deeply committed to making the Exum Center pool restoration a reality. This facility will offer life-changing opportunities for so many, and I'm honored to help facilitate this effort."

Hartley-Smith brings more than 20 years of experience in public service, with expertise in leadership, administration, and team collaboration. She currently serves as an Administrative Senior Specialist at the Kentucky Department for Public Health, supporting strategic operations and process improvement. Her past roles include Legislative Assistant for the Kentucky House GOP, Owner of CrossFit Unbridled, and

Bookkeeper for Franklin County Public Schools. She holds certifications as an Emergency Medical Training Professional, Certified Nurse Assistant and CrossFit Level 2 Trainer.

About Swim With Purpose

Swim With Purpose (SWP) is a charitable fund managed by the [Blue Grass Community Foundation](#). Founded by AV industry executive and passionate swimmer [Sam Taylor](#), and endorsed by Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps and the [Michael Phelps Foundation](#), SWP aims to revitalize the indoor pool at the Exum Center for the benefit of students, faculty, and the broader community. The initiative will facilitate programs that foster inclusivity and healthy living. To support SWP, please visit: <https://bgcf.givingfuel.com/-swim-with-purpose>.

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