

## Shout Out: Monique Brunson Jones of the Evanston Community Foundation



Monique Brunson Jones (Evanston Community Foundation / Handout)

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Named in November as the **Evanston** Community Foundation's (ECF) new president and CEO, Monique Brunson Jones is taking the reigns of organization with a pretty impressive track record. Under Sara Schastok, the previous President and CEO, the organization grew from fledgling status to a major community philanthropic force, whose annual distributions of over \$2 million impact a wide list of Evanston organizations. Jones recently offered some views on how she hopes to lead ECF to the next level.

**Q. Can you tell us a little about your background before being named for the ECF's**

## **CEO job?**

A. Previously I served as director of programs for Chicago Foundation for Women providing leadership to the grant making, leadership development and capacity building, evaluation and advocacy arm of the Foundation. I also served as director of violence prevention for the Cook County Department of Public Health, working to improve the social determinants of health in suburban Cook County and implementing a public health framework for violence prevention efforts. Prior to that I served as clinical director for the [Jane Addams Hull House Association](#) leading for the mental health programs offered to teens in the independent living and transitional living programs.

## **Q. What helps non-profits bring attention to their cause?**

A. Nonprofits have a unique role in not only providing services but advocating for change. They bring attention to their cause by being the expert spokesperson and owning the narrative around their work, which builds continued support.

## **Q. Have you formed any impressions of Evanston in your short time here?**

A. It's quite awesome, rich with diversity. I've had the wonderful opportunity to meet several leaders in the community, all offering me a perspective of pride, reality and opportunity. Ask me again when it warms up.

**Q. Do you have a guiding philosophy that helps you carry on?**

A. I do, and in short form it's similar to a quote by Helen Keller. "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. I will not refuse to do the something that I can do".