



National Philanthropy Day®

2015 Winning Nominations

Ann Thomas, Outstanding Fundraising Professional

Ann Thomas says she “teaches philanthropy.” For decades, Ann has shared her knowledge and passion for the field of philanthropy in positions at The Nature Conservancy; Duke University; and as Senior Counsel at Capital Development Services for over 20 years. Ann is known for her strength at guiding and directing campaign strategies at health, human services, educational, cultural and environmental organizations. Her campaigns have included food banks, museums, foundations, environmental groups, churches, and children’s support agencies. Ann’s experience combined with her character and her ability to work seamlessly with all kinds of clients has made her a tremendous asset and well-loved in the Triangle.

“Ann combines knowledge with temperament; a highly skilled professional who is both an inspiration and a role model for other development professionals.” - Ralph Capps, President and CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs

“Ann Thomas has been a trusted advisor for Transitions LifeCare for over a decade. Ann is very knowledgeable yet not overbearing. She works well with volunteers, staff, and the board by enhancing teamwork and a common vision for success.” - John Thoma, CEO, Transitions LifeCare, founded Hospice of Wake County

“She helped us secure campaign leadership and provided valuable guidance as we solicited several key lead donors. She continues to provide value to our team through her strategic insight into our donor community. Her thoughtful and calm demeanor helps keep us on track and inspires confidence in our staff and key leadership.” - Anna Hosea, Director of Development, Ravenscroft School

“Ann Thomas taught me everything I know about development. She helped me to think about my time management and how to NOT MAJOR IN THE MINOR. She encouraged me to get out and see people, really focus on board members and what they were saying. She was an incredible mentor, an effective counselor and teacher of development. When I began this part of my career, private fundraising accounted for 5% of the budget; in five years, with Ann’s training, it was 25%. When I left that job, and moved to work at UNC Chapel Hill, Ann kept in touch with me. We would have these great luncheons once a year so she could check in. I always walked away thinking, when I grow up, I’m going to be like her: smart, savvy, great way with words. Today, I’m running development for a staff of eight, and I am still fortunate I get to work with Ann - she’s my main contact with CapDev as they help me navigate and implement our current capital campaign of \$50 million. Ann Thomas has made a great difference in my life. I feel so privileged to have the job I have - connecting supporters to great missions. She helped me be the fundraiser I am today. She has been instrumental in my career development. I am so grateful to have her in my corner.” – Janice Periquet, Director of Philanthropy, NC Chapter of The Nature Conservancy