

# REGIONAL FOUNDATION

May 2026

## Welcoming Cassandra Manotham, Administrative Coordinator

The Regional Foundation is pleased to welcome Cassandra Manotham as our new Administrative Coordinator. A dedicated community worker, Cassandra is driven by a **simple goal: to leave things better than she found them.**

Cassandra brings experience across community engagement, program coordination, and systems design. Most recently, she supported early-stage entrepreneurs at the University City Science Center through the Capital Readiness and Angel Investor programs. Prior to that, she led the digital equity program at [SEAMAAC](#), connecting hundreds of immigrant and refugee families across 20+ language groups with internet access, devices, and digital education while building strong partnerships across community organizations, schools, and service providers.

Her work at [Fishadelphia](#) reflects her commitment to community-centered solutions, where she helped design and lead a mutual aid program expanding access to fresh, local seafood. Cassandra studied English and Environmental Studies at Haverford College, after beginning her academic journey at the Community College of Philadelphia and the Philadelphia High School for Girls.

### **What drew you to the Regional Foundation, and what excites you most about stepping into this role?**

As a Philadelphia resident, it's important to me to do good work where I am at, so I naturally aligned with Regional Foundation's commitment to doing place-based

work in the tri-state region. I am deeply impressed by the recognition that the residents, not external forces, are the experts on the needs and solutions within the communities that they live, work, and play in. My previous experience at SEAMAAC serving immigrant and refugee populations highlights the importance of supporting resident led work, especially when considering linguistic and cultural differences. I am also excited to learn more about philanthropy and Trust-Based Philanthropy in particular. As a community organizer, I am an advocate for mutual aid and the empowerment that comes from activating community members to care for one another through material and nonmaterial means. However, I am intrigued by the institutional possibilities, by way of Trust-Based Philanthropy, to scale and make the work sustainable. As a community worker and nonprofit professional, I see this opportunity as the perfect role to combine my superpowers of engaging with and listening deeply to community members while conducting operational excellence in the background to ensure that we can show up as our best, individually and organizationally, to the people we serve.

***How do you envision your role supporting and working alongside the grantee and PRI partners leading this work in their communities?***

As a nonprofit professional who has worked with diverse populations, my north star has always been to be curious, present, and a deep listener. I know that alone, we do not have all the answers, but with intentional collaboration we can not only go deep, but far (in terms of sustainability and supporting community members with support they want and need). I'm excited to hunker down and learn what systems and workflows are currently in place to see what works well and if there are any opportunities for improvement. I love implementing the principles of user experience design and service design in my day-to-day work because I believe improving the team's experience doing the work shows up in quality and seamless engagements with grantees and other stakeholders.

***Outside of work, what brings you joy or keeps you grounded?***

I am grounded in my faith, family, friends, and movement through yoga, weightlifting, or hiking. My favorite experiences are sharing a delicious meal with loved ones, sipping a delicious coffee during a sunlit walk, or adventuring to new

neighborhoods and towns and visiting their grocery stores, bookstores, coffee shops, and museums. When these small joys seem short-lived and “superficial,” I turn to story and history: of my family, ancestors, local community, and people in the global world who continue to show resilience, strength, and capital L Life! James Baldwin said it best, “You think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented in the history of the world, but then you read. It was books that taught me that the things that tormented me most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive, who had ever been alive.”