

angela blanchard

Angela Blanchard is a globally recognized expert practitioner in community development, disaster recovery, and effective long-term integration for immigrants and refugees. Blanchard's breakthrough strategies have successfully revitalized neighborhoods, while providing a powerful model for cities across the globe facing the complex challenges of community transformation.



Blanchard's genuine reverence for people and her unique ability to bring them together in unprecedented ways have played a pivotal role in the growth and impact of BakerRipley, formerly Neighborhood Centers Inc. Her innovative, strength-based framework—Appreciative Community Building—has set the new standard for integrating diverse populations into thriving communities.

She has been profiled in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Fast Company magazine and was recently appointed as a Nonresident Senior Fellow in the Centennial Scholar Initiative at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C.

Frequently sought out by international nonprofit organizations and government leaders, Blanchard's breakthrough achievements in community revitalization have received numerous accolades: elite awards from top institutions, three invitations to the White House, and extensive press coverage.

Professional Highlights

As President and CEO, Blanchard has provided the leadership for this internationally recognized organization since 1995. Ranking in the top 1% of charitable groups nationwide, BakerRipley is the largest community development organization in Texas. It serves more than half a million people in over 50 counties with an annual budget of over \$250 million.

Agency growth during Blanchard's tenure includes an increase in revenues from \$47 million (1995) to \$250 million (2016) and a jump in net assets from \$9.6 million (1995) to \$70.2 million (2015). Over that same period, the number of employees grew from 325 to more than 1,200.

Since Houston is now the most ethnically diverse, fastest-growing city in the U.S., Blanchard is already developing solutions for community challenges that the rest of our country will face in the next decade. For those cities (and even nations) that will be tasked with meeting the multi-layered demands of integrating a diverse population into thriving communities, Blanchard's insightful strategies are blazing a trail for the future.

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"BakerRipley's work is more comprehensive than any other place in the country. This is a model we should really get the public to invest in."

Geoffrey Canada
Children's Harlem Zone

"BakerRipley illustrates what it means to embrace democratic change and build a new work force – a new America – at metropolitan scale."

Bruce Katz
Brookings Institution

"The success of one Houston area nonprofit offers lessons for alleviating poverty and building communities across a sprawling urban region...so it's fascinating to hear what Blanchard has to say."

Amanda Colson Hurley
The Atlantic

"Angela Blanchard was able to cut through the partisan rhetoric to get Democrats and Republicans on board. Together they raised \$25 million dollars to build the BakerRipley Neighborhood Center."

Fareed Zakaria
CNN

"To help metropolitan areas meet the new and rising challenges of improving low income residents' access to opportunity, public policy must value and prioritize scaled solutions like those offered by BakerRipley."

Confronting Suburban Poverty in America
The Brookings Institution

"Good organizations have three things: visionary leadership, a bold mission, and flawless execution. BakerRipley does that."

Darren Walker
Ford Foundation

"Blanchard has spoken in places as distant as Australia about the organization's model, one that recognizes the rapid demographic shift taking place in cities like Houston, and sees immigrants and long-time residents alike as human capital to be leveraged in a positive way."

Emily DeRuy
The Atlantic