



SOLVING SOCIAL PROBLEMS WITH REAL SOCIAL  
AND ECONOMIC SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Neli Vazquez Rowland

- Social Entrepreneur / Philanthropist
- Impact Investor / Trailblazer
- Co-Founder and President, A Safe Haven Foundation
- Founder of Four Social Enterprise Ventures
- Transitional, Affordable and Senior Housing Real Estate Developer

### LINK, LEVERAGE AND ALIGN™

Public and Private Solutions to Social and Economic Problems

Founded in 1990's by Neli Vazquez Rowland, and her husband Brian Rowland, A Safe Haven embarked on a journey that has resulted in the transformation of the lives of the vast majority of over 100,000 people in social and economic crisis to sustainable self-sufficiency.

A Safe Haven is lauded by business, academia and public policy leaders as one of the most innovative social business enterprise model in the world. A Safe Haven is a 'game changer' in the field that has lacked innovation. A Safe Haven is frequently recognized, by many stakeholders and industry leaders for successfully addressing the root causes of poverty and homelessness in a sustainable manner.

Today, A Safe Haven is a unique vertically-integrated ecosystem that is hybrid of not-for-profit and for-profit social business enterprises. These enterprises are able to successfully allocate resources and create sustainable revenue models that produce visible and measureable results in breaking the cycle of poverty and homelessness.

A Safe Haven's models are founded on the belief that if the private and public sector combine the resources of our available time, talent, and treasure, together we can eradicate poverty and homelessness. A Safe Haven has invested in aligning private donors; government contracts and commercial enterprise's to address the social issue of poverty and homelessness.

Neli shares her story of how frustration with a system fraught with fragmented services and gaps in funding led to the creation of the A Safe Haven model. She will discuss how social responsibility and social enterprise models can create new sources of funding. She will discuss how public and private partnerships can be formed to overcome barriers and unlock limitless potential in transforming the lives of tens of thousands of lives trapped in poverty systems; and how A Safe Haven has successfully channeled resources and services that consistently result in positive outcomes and beneficial social impact. Neli will share her aspiration to influence a paradigm shift in the way our nation addresses the root causes of poverty. A shift focused on aligning all our resources with solutions driven models.

**Bring Neli To Your Audiences:** Have Neli present A Safe Haven's innovative model and Link, Leverage and Align™ to: Board Members; C-Suite Executives; Sustainability Officers; Business Leaders; Cause Brand and Marketing Professionals; Social Entrepreneurs; Financial Service Providers; Institutional Investors; Pension Fund Managers; Impact investors; Affordable Housing and Senior Housing Investors'; Developers and Operators; Family and Private Foundations Program Officers; Philanthropists; Elected Officials and Public Policy Advocates; Social Enterprise Professionals; Universities; Top Academic and Religious Leader. Neli will present to all entities, individuals and organizations that have a social responsibility agenda and a culture of impact giving.

For more information contact: [TakeAction@ASafeHaven.org](mailto:TakeAction@ASafeHaven.org) or 773.435.8374

Join the Conversation: Twitter [[@A\\_Safe\\_Haven](https://twitter.com/A_Safe_Haven)] and Facebook [[ASafeHavenFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/ASafeHavenFoundation)]

Blog: [www.nelisays.com](http://www.nelisays.com) | Newsletter: Text ASAFEHAVEN to 22828 | Website: [www.ASafeHaven.org](http://www.ASafeHaven.org)

**Board Positions:** A Safe Haven Foundation Board; Illinois Tollway Authority Board; Illinois Medicaid Advisory Board (MAC); iHeart Media Advisory Board; Bradley University Construction & Engineering Advisory Board; IL Women’s Drug and Alcohol Advisory Committee – Department of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA)

**Categories:** Conscious Capitalism, Triple-Bottom Line, Mission Driven Ventures, Social Innovation, Social Enterprise, Non-Profits, Charities, Philanthropies, Ethics, Social Entrepreneurship, Servant Leadership, Business Innovation, Public-Private Partnership, Citizenship, Social Good and Sustainability.

**Prior Engagements:** The Chicago Council on Global Affairs; Harvard University, Goldman Sachs; Social Enterprise Alliance; Brigham Young University, Romney Public Policy Institute; University of Chicago, Booth School of Business and School of Social Work; Loyola University; Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Business; Notre Dame University, Mendoza School of Business; University of Colombia Bogota, Columbia Conference on Prisons; American Parole and Probation Associations; Purdue University, Krannert School of Business; William G. McGowan Charitable Fund; Chinese Ministry of Justice; Canadian Social Development Ministry; RealEstate Group; Union League; Elite SDVOB Network; International Women’s Day; Kennedy Forum “On the Table” Event at Northern Trust; and many more public, private, and foundation forums.

**Awards and Recognitions:** Negocios Now “El Amigo Award”, Chicago Woman Magazine “The Fierce 50 Women Revolution”, Ignatian Spirituality Project “2016 Company of Grace Champion of Injustice of Homelessness”; 2016 Chicago Maestro Awards “Maestro of Leadership”; National Association for Minorities in Communications “2015 Unsung Heroes”; Chicago Latino Network “CLN Hall of Fame 2015 Inductee”; Miami Brickell Chamber of Commerce “2015 Miami Real Estate ICON Leadership Award”; Consulate General of Peru “Independence Award”; John Marshall Law School “Freedom Award”; Illinois Diversity Council “Leadership Excellence”; Illinois Landscaping Association “TWO GOLD Awards in Landscaping”; Co-Chaired IL Governor Bruce Rauner’s, Healthcare and Human Services Transition Team; Verizon “Nueva Latina Estrella Award”; Enterprising Women Magazine “Enterprising Woman of the Year”; The White House “Champion of Change”; American Red Cross “Community Impact Award”; Illinois Secretary of State – “Humanitarian of the Year”; Make It Better Magazine “Most Inspiring Mission”; New York City Legal Momentum

“Aiming High - Entrepreneur of the Year”; Chicago Rotary One “Service Above Self Award”; Chicago Magazine - “Chicagoan of the Year”; Chicago United “Leader of Color”; Chicago Latino Network Entrepreneur of the Year”; Chicago Association of Realtors “Good Neighbor Award”; National Environmental Hall of Fame “Social Sustainability Award”; AETNA “Latina Entrepreneur of the Year”; National Social Business Enterprise Alliance “Best Marriage of Money & Mission”; Safer E. Pakistan Award for “Outstanding Contribution for Humanity”; Publicity Club of Chicago “Three Time Silver Trumpet Award”, The Yellow Tractor Project “Golden Trowel Award”; and 2017 American Institute of Architects (AIA) – “Chicago Chapter Distinguished Building Award Citation of Merit for Excellence in Architecture”; The Original Chicago Blues All Stars “Peoples Humanitarian Award”.

**Media:** WGN AM 720, “The Download Show”; NBC5, “Making A Difference”; Steve Harvey Show; ABC Feature Segment “Finding a Way Home”; ABC7 Windy City Live TV Show and “Proud Chicago” Interview; CBS Features “Your Chicago” and “Someone You Should Know”; Enterprising Women Magazine; Rotary International Magazine; Chicago Magazine; CCTV America; Univision; Telemundo; Fox News Chicago; Chicago Tribune; Chicago Sun-times; 101.9 The MIX Radio; Shalom Klein, Get Down to Business Radio Show; WBBM Radio; WVON Radio; and many more.

**Personal Interests and Accomplishments:** Married 25 years to Brian Rowland; sons Devin 24 and Dylan 20. Avid Runner, Triathlete and a two-time Marathoner. Co-Founder and Producer: Chicago’s Largest Homeless Events which includes: 5K RUN! To End Homelessness; Music Revolution To End Homelessness and A Safe Haven Veteran Stand Down.

### What others are saying ...

*“The Worst Buildings were turned around, fixed up not only did the building look good, but something remarkable was happening-lives were being turned around...it was the best decision that I made in my career.”* Joe Moore, Chicago City Councilman 25 years

*“This is a success story and everybody who is part of it, is part of that success story. And, what you build here is going to be the model that helps people in the rest of the country.”*

Patrick Kennedy, Former Congressman, Mental Health Advocate & Co-Founder of One Mind

*“I was homeless and had nothing’.... “What I liked about A Safe Haven is that everything was in one place. They taught us how to live again and how to manage our lives again”*

Robert and Melissa Hovey – Former residents of A Safe Haven (1998) Entrepreneurs, Founders of Hovey Energy and Philanthropist

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