

Meet Phillip Scharf: AACHC's New COO on Leadership, Life, and the Opportunity He Never Passes Up

Phillip Scharf, AACHC's new chief operations officer, never misses an opportunity to say hello – to a new challenge or to a four-legged friend.

With over 20 years of leadership experience, Phillip's dedication to operational excellence and service to the community will support us in our mission to advance the vital work of Community Health Centers to serve the unique needs of our communities.

Previously serving as COO and Interim CEO at Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS), Phillip led key initiatives to support vulnerable populations, forged critical partnerships, and improved outcomes for those experiencing homelessness. His leadership will support our vision of equitable access to high-quality health care for all and its commitment to community-driven healthcare solutions.

To get to know Phillip even better, we asked him 10 fun questions. Here's what he had to say:

1. What excites you right now?

I'm thrilled to join AACHC and work with such a dedicated team! On a personal note, I'm really excited for Halloween—my house goes all out, and this year we're doing an Alice in Wonderland theme.

2. What are you looking forward to?

I can't wait to build new relationships at AACHC. Meeting incredible new people is always the best part of a new role, and I'm excited to collaborate with our partners.

3. What's the best thing that happened to you this year?

I was honored to join a national discussion on heat policy at Duke University, representing people experiencing homelessness. It's been a rewarding experience, and I look forward to contributing more.

4. Where did you grow up?

Technically, I grew up in Illinois and Minnesota, but Boston feels like my true home. I moved there for college and it's where I felt like I belonged.

5. What do you do for fun?

I love being outdoors, whether it's brunch on a patio or hiking with my partner, Amanda. Every year, I host a park day for my birthday, imagining it'll be like a school field day – but it usually turns into yard games with friends.

[continued]

-2-

6. Who's your favorite superhero?

I really don't have one, but my son Ian loves Bumblebee from the "Transformers" series.

7. What's the best sandwich?

As a vegetarian, options can be limited, but I love an egg salad sandwich with jalapeños. And Ike's Love & Sandwiches has a great vegetarian meatball sub!

8. What's your entrance music?

"Why Can't We Be Friends" by War. I can be competitive, but I think that song is amazing and the irony isn't lost on me.

9. Is there a charitable cause you support?

I support AZ Mastiff Rescue and remain committed to homelessness issues, especially among seniors.

10. What's the most important thing we should know about you?

I never pass up an opportunity to meet a dog. If you are anywhere with me in public and there is a dog, I will interrupt what we are doing so I can say hello. I don't mean to be rude, it's just that I already know you, and I haven't had the chance to meet the dog yet.

We're thrilled to welcome Phillip to the AACHC team! Feel free to reach out to say hello at phillips@aacchc.org or talk dogs – he's always up for both.