

Brenda Thorpe Bio

Brenda was born and raised in West Columbia, SC. She is a first-generation college graduate and proud daughter of South Carolina State University where she received a Bachelor of Science in biology and a minor in chemistry in 2007. She then began her career in community health on the collegiate level as a Peer Health Education Coordinator for Brooks Health Center on campus, which piqued her interest in public health. She received a Master of Public Health from Florida International University in 2012. She worked with the Department of Health and Environmental Control as a Community Engagement Specialist and Community Engagement Manager for over 7 years.

She has a wealth of knowledge of community health improvement planning and development, coalition development, facilitation, community engagement, and relationship building. She served as the chair of Wholespire Aiken County for 5 years and on the leadership team of Barnwell County Healing Partners for 4 years.

In her personal life, she is a mom of 3 teenagers and a mentor to single and divorced moms. She enjoys church, paint-and-sip events, brunch, day trips to the beach in the warm weather, and a good self-development book. She is extremely passionate about helping to eliminate health disparities and advancing health equity. Cancer prevention is near and dear to her heart, as one of her children is a leukemia survivor who's been in remission for 13 years. Even though she defines herself as introverted, community engagement work has stretched her out of her comfort zone and she is grateful to be a voice at the table for the underserved and marginalized populations of South Carolina

She is honored to be a part of the SC Cancer Alliance team because she believes they are making an impact that can be felt and seen across the state of South Carolina. She hopes to add her expertise to the great work they're doing to continue to make a positive difference in cancer prevention and outcomes in our communities.