

# Nina Corder – the Human Leader

Formal /Legal: Dr. Shazlina Hashim-Corder

# PORTFOLIO

Nina Corder's story is rooted in one defining belief: meaningful connections between people create the collective power to redesign systems, and strengthen the infrastructure within the ecosystem that shape thriving communities.



**A Story of Belonging, Systems Change, and the Power of Connection.** Arriving in the United States of America from Malaysia as an *international undergraduate student* more than two decades ago, Nina experienced firsthand what it means to navigate new systems, cultures, and networks without a roadmap. That lived experience became the catalyst for a lifetime of work focused on belonging, access, and equity, not as abstract ideals, but as practical, human-centered systems that work for real people.

# INTRODUCTION





## ABOUT

In 2013, while conducting research in organizational leadership, Nina established Women of Toledo, Ohio as a grassroots experiment in connection. What began as a small convening space evolved into a regional hub that elevate women's economic empowerment, workforce development, and leadership serving women and girls across race, income, age, and lived experience. The organization was built on a simple but disruptive insight: the greatest barrier facing individuals is not talent or ambition; it is disconnected systems.

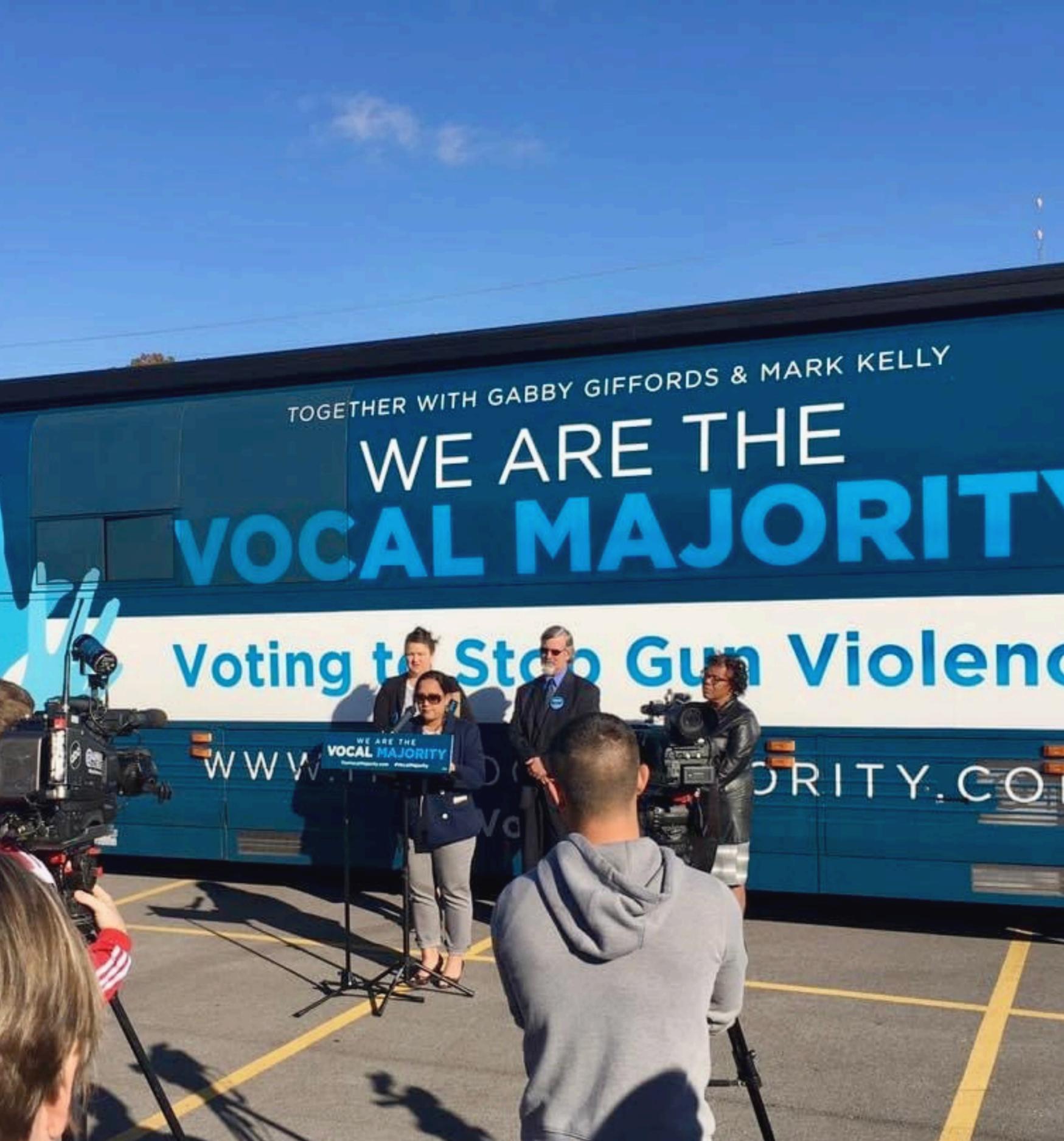
**NINA  
CORDER**

Nina's work extends beyond nonprofit leadership into **policy, systems change, and global engagement**. Locally, she played a key role in advancing gender equity legislation in Toledo, including the adoption of Pay Equity and CEDAW, ensuring that women's lived realities are reflected in public policy.

Nationally and globally, she has served as a UN Women Global Champion for Change, a Mentor to Global Professional Fellows for the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Global Leaders Division, and a delegate to the United Nations Economic Social Council on the Status of Women Commission, bringing Toledo's story into global conversations while translating global frameworks back into local action.

At the center of Nina's work is a distinct leadership philosophy: **relational intelligence paired with execution rigor**. She leads by listening, convening, and building trust, then aligning people, data, and resources toward outcomes that last. This dual fluency has positioned her as both a **community builder** and a **systems architect in economic and workforce** comfortable in grassroots circles and global policy rooms.

Today, Nina continues to expand her vision through HerHub Global, an AI-enabled platform designed to **map opportunity**, unlock **economic and workforce mobility**, and scale women's access to income, skills, and networks worldwide. Yet even as her work reaches across continents, her leadership remains grounded in the same truth that **women do not rise alone, and they should not have to**.



**Nina Corder's story extends beyond individual leadership; it reflects what becomes possible when community is designed as infrastructure, inclusion is approached as a strategy, and connection is leveraged as a catalyst for lasting systemic change.**

# EDUCATION

## And Certifications.

- Ed.D., Northcentral University
- M.Ed. & B.A., the University of Toledo
- Certified Human Rights Advocate, the U.S. Institute of Diplomacy and Human Rights (USIDHR)
- Certified Business Advisor, GrowthWheel
- Certified Negotiation Professional (CNP™), SkillFront
- Transformative Mediator, Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation



# SKILLS

- Strategic Systems-Level Thinking
- Relational Intelligence & Trust Building
- Visionary Leadership with Execution Rigor
- Equity-Centered Decision-Making
- Policy & Civic Engagement Acumen
- Fund Development & Resource Mobilization
- Cross-Cultural Competence
- Analytical & Data-Driven Orientation
- Public Speaking & Narrative Framing
- Change Leadership & Organizational Design
- AI-Enabled Strategic Adaptability



# WORK EXPERIENCE

## Founder and Executive Director, Women of Toledo 2013 – Present

Growing it from a grassroots initiative into a regional hub serving over **12,000 women and youth**. She has raised more than **USD\$2.2 million** in grants and capital funds to expand its impact, launched the Mentorship Institute to support workforce development, and the Northwest Ohio Women's Business Council to strengthen the local entrepreneurial ecosystem, and helped **advance key gender-equity legislation**, including CEDAW (O-095-22) and the Pay Equity Act (O-173-19).



# WORK EXPERIENCE

**Principal Owner, Lemon Lime Company  
2015 – Present**

Leads the social enterprise agency in delivering **operational consulting and skills training globally**, while launching Lemon Lime Lab to create income-generating opportunities for women living in poverty across developing nations. Nina's belief is that addressing the **workforce and workplace development** will eradicate domestic and global poverty. The philosophy - "one job, one person at a time". She also founded **HerHub Global**, an AI-driven economic mobility platform that integrates network mapping, digital learning, and market access to unlock income, skills, and scalable opportunity pathways for women across global markets.



**Chief Operating Officer, SO NOW Professional Network for Women.  
2013 –2016**

Provided **operational leadership** for a multi-chapter women's professional network, overseeing strategy, coordination, and growth across regional hubs. Directed execution of the flagship monthly luncheons and annual awards programs serving 300–500+ attendees, while **strengthening cross-chapter alignment to expand engagement** in Midwest areas – Sylvania, Perrysburg, Lima, and surrounding communities.



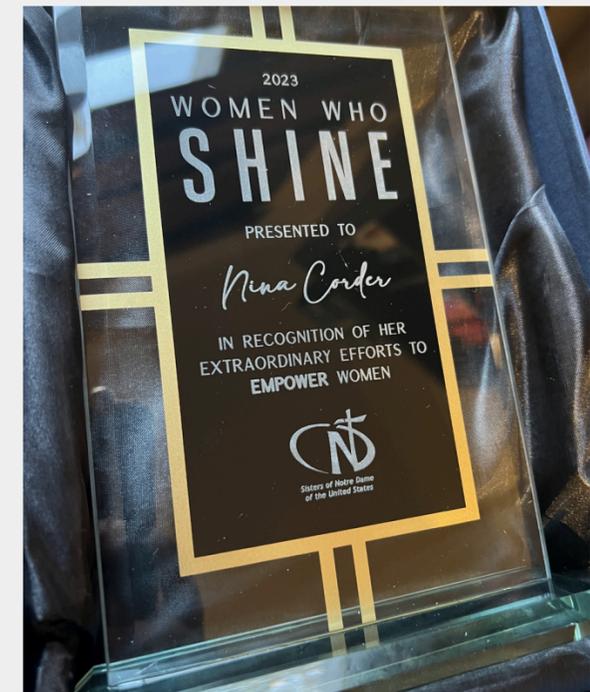
**WORK EXPERIENCE**

# GLOBAL INVOLVEMENT

- Commission on the Status of Women, 68th, International Alliance of Women (UN Economic and Social Council – ECOSOC)
- Consultant, Human Rights, SDG and Social Progress Imperative, traveled to more than 30 countries around the world and worked/station in four different continents.
- Instructor, World Academy for the Future of Women, Global Interactions – NGO with Consultative Status with the United Nations (Katarina University, Kenya)
- Facilitator, U.S. Congressional Office for International Leadership (COIL) Open World Program (Ukraine, Moldova, Hungary)
- Global Champion for Change (UN Women – Empower Women initiative)
- Collaborator & Speaker, The Helló Margit! All-Arts Cultural Festival and Women in Change Festival (Női Váltó Fesztivál), Budapest II District Municipality (Hungary)
- Mentor, U.S. Department of State Professional Fellows Program, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Global Leaders Division (Hungary, Albania, China, Mongolia)

- **Women Making Change Honoree**, the JCPenney Corporation (2024)
- **Woman on the Rise**, the YWCA Northwest Ohio (2024)
- **Distinguished Alumni Award**, the University of Toledo, Judith Herb College of Education (2024)
- **Women Who SHINE**, the Sisters of Notre Dame of the U.S. (2023)
- Toledo **Jefferson Award** for Public Service, Washington, D.C. Representative (2021)
- Ernest M. Pon **Human Rights Award**, the National Association for Ethnic Studies (2021)

# RECOGNITION & AWARDS



# GOVERNMENT & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- **President**, American Association of University Women (AAUW), Toledo Branch.
- **Co-Chair**, Workforce Economic Development Committee, Welcome Toledo-Lucas County (Welcome TLC), supported Toledo's recognition as a **Certified Welcoming City & County**.
- **Mayoral Appointee & Commissioner Member**, City of Toledo – Human Relations Commission and Gender Equity Commission (CEDAW)
- **Member**, White House Council on Women & Girls (Obama Administration 2016)
- **Task Force Committee** on various citywide (Toledo, Ohio) initiatives advocating gender equity, including the successful passage of CEDAW (O-095-22) and the Pay Equity Act (O-173-19).



# MEDIA FEATURED AS SEEN ON



- The Sojourner's Truth, **Unlocking Women's Potential**: Women of Toledo, July 18, 2024
- The Blade, **YWCA says three women leaders 'On the Rise'**, July 12, 2024
- International Women's News, Special Edition: **Poverty, Women Lead the Peace**, Voll:120 No.2, 2024
- CanvasRebel, **STORIES & INSIGHTS, Meet Nina Corder**, December 18, 2023
- Voyage Ohio, **Exploring Life & Business with Nina Corder** of Inclusive for Women, January 19, 2023
- © Apple Inc, **Creating a Better Life through a Diverse and Expansive Network** by Third Generation Networking Podcast - Debby & Greg Peters, April 2, 2022
- © Mature Living, **MProfiles: Nina Corder** by Lisa Alleman, March 31, 2022
- © Toledo City Paper, **2019 Big Ideas**
- © ToledoParent.com, **Moms Who Do It at Home** by Erin Schoen Marsh, September 21, 2020



**Women of Toledo  
on media under  
Corder's Leadership**



**Tuesday, March 31st - 1:30 PM**

# WOMEN IN CAREERS

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

Sponsored by Career Services & The Catherine S. Eberly Center for Women  
A panel discussion featuring:

<b>Tina Roberts   Stark Enterprises</b> VP of Commercial Operations	<b>Nina Corder   Women of Toledo</b> Founder & Director of Inclusive for Women Inc.
<b>Sara Swisher   TRCC</b> VP of Talent and Workforce	<b>Joanne Mueller   Cedar Point</b> Vice President of Human Resources

Register on Handshake:  
<https://utoledo.joinhandshake.com/events/4727>



**Introduction of Speed Mentoring & Networking**

Organizer "Good Partners" Credit Union featuring with USA Mentors Nina & Erica.

**Nina Corder**  
Managing director at Women of Toledo  
Toledo, Ohio, USA

**Erica Quach**  
Senior program officer  
Professional Fellows program  
Toledo, Ohio, USA

September 21, 2023  
9 am at "Credit Union" CU  
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia



For the first time, Women of Toledo's International Women's Day luncheon is inviting men to the conversation, making clear that fixing caregiving and workplace systems is everyone's job.

**PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM**

**"Recharge Our Community Economy"**

SEPTEMBER 23rd, 2022, 13:00, @ POLIS UNIVERSITY

 <b>NINA CORDER</b> Managing Director Women of Toledo in Toledo, OH	 <b>BLANCA SURGEON</b> Rural Development Specialist Rural Community Assistance Corporation in Santa Fe, NM
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**PROFILES**

**Nina Corder:**  
Facilitating the power of connection  
By Lisa Allen

The Toledo community is getting better at working together which might in part be due to the efforts of Nina Corder, a 2021 regional Jefferson Award winner. Nina is the whirlwind and quirk behind Women of Toledo, an organization that provides networking and professional development opportunities to women of diverse backgrounds. Their latest initiative, HerHub, is one more tool to educate, engage and empower Toledo area women. Through HerHub's online search engine, women can make connections with one another, find support services, search for volunteer opportunities and support local women-owned businesses.

**Why HerHub?**  
As the Managing / Program Director of Women of Toledo, Nina is expected to complete a varied list of duties, which has helped her to realize that despite her passion to serve, she has limitations. Connecting the community, Nina recognized the variety of area organizations / businesses that serve women. HerHub was developed as a way to bring those resources together in one online platform so that women can search for what they need in one place. "I am always searching for someone where I can be long," says Nina. "This was developed so that we can all find where we belong."

**Making Toledo home**  
Nina's passion for connection began as her first job as a nurse while she was in college. As a UT international student from Malaysia, her plans to return home after graduation were interrupted when she met her future husband, a native Toledan, during her senior year. Nina's decision to remain in Toledo stemmed her personal search concerning the Toledo area, today it is truly a digital platform for all women of Toledo. Anyone can go to [419herhub.org](http://419herhub.org) and find descriptions and contact information for nonprofits serving women, women-owned businesses and local women authors. For those who list their organizations and businesses on the website, additional networking opportunities and a library of resources to help with business development, marketing and finances are offered.

**"HerHub broadens the landscape for all women by providing a way for them to connect with women they wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to know."**

**Bonus Facts!**  
If I had an eighth day of sleep I would...  
I like to see my great niece.

**HerHub**  
Women of Toledo Initiative

## WOMEN & COVID-19

A VIRTUAL DISCUSSION WITH

 Nina Corder, Founder & Managing Director Women of Toledo	 Lisa McDuffie President & CEO WYCA Northwest Ohio	 Wendy Pestre CEO and President United Way of Greater Toledo
 Sharon Barnes, PhD Assoc. Professor & Chair Women's and Gender Studies The University of Toledo	 Aly Day, PhD Assoc. Professor Disability Studies, The University of Toledo	

Thursday, April 23 | 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

12. OLDAL HELLO MARGIT! BUDAI POLGÁR

**Az egyik legalapvetőbb emberi szükséglet a társas kapcsolódás iránti igény**

A Hello Margit! fesztivál nyitórendezvénye a május 15-i Höl Várho Fesztivál lesz, amelynek diszkenyőjeként, az Egyesült Államokból érkező Nina Corder tart majd workshopot a hatékony networking és közösségépítés témakörében. Nina a Women of Toledo alapítója, ami nőeknek nyújt segítséget és mentortámaszt. A Corder által alapított és támogatott szervezetek eddig több mint tízezer nőnek és fiatalnak segítettek karrierjük építésében. Nina 2021-ben megkapta a régió Jefferson-díját, amelyet a "közösséget amerikai Nobel-díjaként" ismernek.

– Az egyik legalapvetőbb emberi szükséglet a társas kapcsolódás iránti igény. Együtt sokkal többre vagyunk képesek, és ennek eredményeként együtt, hanem közösségként is érhetünk el dolgokat. A befogadás és összetartás női közösségek olyan közeget biztosítanak, ahol a nők biztonságban érezhetik magukat, szabadon kifejezhetik érzelmeiket, megoszthatják véleményüket, nyitnak és felismerik nekik becsúszott lehetőségeiket, valamint a közösségekben megosztott történetek, ötletgazdaságok és tanulások igen értékes: hitvallásuk és értékrendjük támasztást adnak, milyen nőnek, férfinak, anyának, tehetségesebbnek, vezetőnek, művészeknek lenni, valamint arról, milyen akadályokkal és előtevékenységekkel szembesülünk nap mint nap – nemcsak helyi, hanem globális szinten is. A személyes történetek megosztásával kialakul az egymás iránti bizalom, és nő a tudatosság. A közösségek belső szervezési alakkal ki a mentorálás kultúrája, hiszen tanácsot adunk és kerünk egymástól. Ezt a női közösségek a közös cselekvés valódi katalizátorai lehetnek – akár a csoporton belül, akár a szűkebb társadalmi változásokért való küzdelem során.

Milyen különbségeket lát a magyarországi és az Egyesült Államokban élő – különösen a feladatok – nők helyzetében? Végzetem némi kultúrát, hogy megértem, melyek a főbb különbségek. Három fontos témát vizsgáltam, amelynek általában is kemény pilléreként látom: a női szerepekkel kapcsolatos társadalmi attitűdök. Mindkét országban jellemző, hogy a nők magasabb arányban szerveznek feladatok végrehajtását, mint a férfiak. Ugyanakkor Magyarországon a társadalmi szerepfeladat és a nem szerepek elvárási nehezebbek a nők számára a munka és a családi élet össze-

**Hello Margit!**  
fesztivál május 15-18.

irodalom zene WORKSHOPOK helypartnerek

MARGIT NEGYED Budapesti Önkormányzat HUNGARIA BOR BUDAPEST

**NŐIVÁLTÓ**  
Közösségi Lapunk a Széchenyi

Wondering where Nina has been? 



# CONTACT INFO

## Email Address

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nina@womenoftoledo.org

## Phone Number

419.377.5457

## Website



Nina Corder

**THANK YOU**