



Alka Bhargav – Executive Director **abhargav@aumfoundationusa.org**

Originally from India, Alka Bhargav has become an integral figure in the Huntsville community. She first obtained her Bachelor of Science degree from Rajasthan University in Jaipur, India, as well as her MBA from the Birla Institute of Technology & Sciences in India. When Alka emigrated to the United States, Alka earned her Master of Arts in Communication from Washington State University. Subsequently, she worked as a vocational rehabilitation counselor in Seattle.

After moving to Huntsville in 2000, Alka began a career in human resources and recruiting. She retired as HR director for Tecvox OEM Solutions in 2013. Her 14 years of HR experience gave her keen insight into what companies look for in high-potential employees. For many years, Alka desired to use this understanding and her own life experiences to empower young women from under resourced backgrounds recognize their potential.

In 2013, her dreams became a reality when Alka and her husband started a non-profit organization called the AUM Charitable Foundation. Serving as Executive Director, Alka has provided 84 young women with invaluable resources for their futures. The AUM Charitable Foundation's program, Pathway 2 Success equips young women with enrichment courses such as financial planning, emotional intelligence, etiquette, conflict resolution etc. Participants are also partnered with mentors, female professionals from a variety of backgrounds who live in Madison County. They are provided with job shadowing and informational sessions to clarify their career goals. Private ACT tutoring helps students increase their ACT score and avail of more financial support from colleges. At the end of the program, they receive a scholarship and a computer laptop towards higher education.

Besides running the AUM Foundation, Alka also has served on numerous boards including New Futures, the Madison City Disability Advocacy, and the North Alabama Society of Human Resource Management. She also served as president of the Women's Economic Development Council (WEDC) Foundation in 2017. Additionally, Alka enjoys giving back to the community through volunteer work for Habitat to Humanity, the American Heart Association, Asha Kiran, and more. This year, Alka has been recognized as the Woman of the Year by the Psi Alpha Zeta chapter of the Zeta Phi Beta sorority.

In her free time, Alka likes to dive into a good book, cook delicious meals, or try out the latest interior decorating trends.