

DANITA WADLEY



Danita Wadley serves as the Vice President of the Houston Region for Volunteers of America Texas, working closely with partners, developing relationships and strategies that support the financial and promotional needs of the agency. She began her career at VOA Texas almost 10 years ago, overseeing its Financial Opportunity Center, where individuals receive job training and financial literacy. She oversees 15 programs that support the largest three counties in the greater Houston area. After the pandemic, her focus has been on business development and innovation.

Danita has successfully unified the region to focus on creating a stronger future for all residents in Houston and surrounding counties. Danita has more than a decade of experience in finance and concurrently obtained 18 years of professional and technical writing knowledge. As a former Senior Licensed Relationship Manager, she served the banking needs of businesses.

Wadley is leading a charge to look beyond temporary fixes and instead find solutions that result in long-term, sustainable change for the betterment of all families. At the heart of this strategy is Wadley's belief that no one organization can accomplish this task alone; it takes a diversity of backgrounds, experiences, and talents to achieve the greatest outcomes for those most in need.

In ten years of service to VOA Texas, she has acquired over \$25 million in grants and expanded Houston area programs by 95%. Her most recent additions are a Disabilities workforce program, including Diversity and Inclusion Initiative, a workforce program with the Methodist Hospital System. These two projects are addressing the gaps for marginalized citizens in our communities.

Her work with VOA Texas gained national attention when she was featured in the *Washington Post*. That same year she was awarded the VOA Texas Difference Maker Award. Danita Wadley participated in an executive leadership program called Key Makers. This program resulted in a Non-Profit Certification from Notre Dame. She was awarded the Leadership of Administration award at the National Volunteers of America conference in 2019. She recently completed an Executive Leadership Certification program at Cornell University.

She is an alumnus of the University of Houston, where she earned both a master's and bachelor's degree in Psychology.