



## Marie Del Tejo

Executive Director

Marie has been working in the educational field since 1980, and has been working at ACT since 1990. She holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Masters of Science in Education from Hunter College. She has attended Columbia University programs such as Middle Management for Youth Services and Developing Leaders. Across the past four decades, Marie has been a classroom teacher, a mentor to teachers and group leaders, and an advisor to parents and community home-based daycares who need supportive behavioral management. She sits on the board of The Meeting House, an organization that offers a wide array of social emotional learning programs for all ages, and Musica Sacra, whose mission is to educate and expose children to choral music through participation. Marie grew up on the West Side, and uses her knowledge to help families navigate the New York City admissions process and choose the right educational path for their children.



In the following pages you will be introduced to all of our full-time staff members, but we think it is important to note that ACT is able to offer our robust programming because we employ a variety of invaluable, caring, trained part-time staff, including:

- summer camp counselors and counselors-in-training
- after-school group leaders
- visual arts, sports, and performing arts specialists
- nursery school and preschool part-time teachers
- parent-toddler class instructors
- vacation camp support staff

Every staff member is valuable and integral to our organization!

Email: [mdeltejo@stjohndivine.org](mailto:mdeltejo@stjohndivine.org)



## Emma Schneider

Executive Assistant

## Orissa Woods

School-Age Coordinator  
Summer Camp Assistant  
Director



Orissa has nine years of experience as an early childhood education teacher. In 2003, she established Unity Group Family Daycare Services and administered the entire operation while remaining committed to maintaining a healthy educational environment for all children. During the year, Orissa serves as Divine Party Manager in addition to overseeing the After-School program at ACT. Orissa has worked at ACT for 12 years.

Email: [owoods@stjohndivine.org](mailto:owoods@stjohndivine.org)



Emma's experience at ACT began back in 2003, when she was a 7-year-old going to summer camp for the first time. She has since earned a BA in Literature from the University of California, San Diego. During the summers she would return to ACT to work as a camp counselor. After graduation, she started working as an After-School group leader as well as a Nursery and Pre-K assistant teacher. Her 8 years working at ACT have taught her a lot about the ins and outs of the organization, and she now supports everyone on campus to make ACT the best program that it can be.

Email: [eschneider@stjohndivine.org](mailto:eschneider@stjohndivine.org)



## Phoebe Baker

Office Manager



Phoebe's childcare experience dates back to 2004 when she had her first job working at a daycare. She holds a BA in Theatre as well as a Masters in Educational Theatre. Her passion for childhood education and the performing arts has led her to lend her talents as a teaching artist throughout Manhattan. Phoebe also enjoys vanilla lattes and warm hugs. She has been working at ACT for 3 years.

Email: [pbaker@stjohndivine.org](mailto:pbaker@stjohndivine.org)

## Karen Blancq

Head Pre-K Teacher



Karen has been a teacher in public and private school programs throughout New York City for more than 30 years, including Beginnings Nursery School, Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church Day School, P.S. 75 and, most recently, the Early Childhood Learning Center at Temple Israel. She earned a B.A. in Psychology from Hunter College and a Master's Degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from Bank Street College of Education. She both facilitates training for teachers and participates regularly in professional development opportunities that allow her to improve her craft. Now in her fourth year in the ACT Pre-K, Karen is particularly proud of how the fun and learning now primarily takes place in one of the only DOE affiliated outdoor classrooms in New York City! She is passionate about working with young children and believes wholeheartedly that teaching is her calling – not simply her profession.

Email: [kmacleanblancq@stjohndivine.org](mailto:kmacleanblancq@stjohndivine.org)

# Ann Shepherd

Head Nursery Teacher



Ann, better known as Ms. Ann to our Nursery school children, has been teaching for almost two decades. A graduate of Wells College, with studies in English Literature, Ms. Ann has experience in a wide range of settings with children between the ages of two and eight years old. She has worked in Head Start and at the YMCA Co-op Nursery. Before becoming a Head Teacher, she did a student internship at P.S. 234 and tutored children at the Northside Center of Child Development.

Email: [ashepherd@stjohndivine.org](mailto:ashepherd@stjohndivine.org)



# Emma Thompson-Haye

Assistant Pre-K Teacher



Emma started out at ACT as a camper, returned as a summer camp counselor, and now works full-time in Early Years as a part of the ACT Pre-K! She holds a B.A. in Political Science with a Concentration in Childhood Education from Columbia University. She is grateful for ACT's tight-knit community, effervescent young students, and dedicated staff members—they all make ACT the magical place it is!

Email:  
[ethompsonhaye@stjohndivine.org](mailto:ethompsonhaye@stjohndivine.org)