



Carmella Swanson Professional Bio, June 2025

FULL LENGTH

Carmella Swanson is a seasoned labor and community leader with almost 30 years of experience building strategic partnerships, advancing worker rights, and fostering grassroots organizational growth. She is the Founder and Executive Director of the **Labor Response Community of the Inland Empire (LRC)**, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting union families and underserved communities through workforce development, disaster preparedness, and economic resilience across Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

Carmella launched LRC in 2024, guiding its vision from concept to execution. She authored the organization's business plan, completed all incorporation and compliance documentation, and recruited its inaugural Board of Directors. Her leadership led to the successful award of a **\$1 million State of California Jobs First Thrive Catalyst Grant**, secured in partnership with SoCalCOSH. The funding, coordinated through the Inland Empire Labor Institute and Inland Economic Growth and Opportunity, helped launch both LRC and the **Inland Empire Disaster Hub**, a critical coordination center advancing regional equity and inclusive workforce infrastructure.

Throughout her career, Carmella has specialized in Executive Board development, membership growth, and strategic outreach. She holds numerous professional certifications, including **CERT Train-the-Trainer**, **Red Cross Mass Care & Sheltering**, and the **Institute for Organization Management (IOM)**. She maintains active health and accident insurance licenses in California, Florida and Utah. Her academic background includes a B.S. in Administration of Recreation and Leisure Services from **Florida State University** and an A.A. from **Tallahassee Community College**.

Carmella was born in **Tallahassee, Florida**, and raised in **Columbus, Georgia**. She spent much of her childhood between her grandparent's **peanut farm in South Georgia**—just 30 minutes from President Jimmy Carter's hometown—and **Fort Benning Base**, where her father served as an LDS military chaplain. That

blend of rural life and structured service deeply shaped her values of hard work, community, and commitment.

When not leading community initiatives, Carmella enjoys **genealogy research**—a passion she hopes to one day pursue at the doctoral level. She also finds joy in her **wire-wrapped jewelry business**, more a labor of love than commerce currently. She's a plant enthusiast (not flowers—**plants**) and loves getting her hands in the dirt.

Carmella is married to **Jason**, her very gorgeous, very tall, blond, blue-eyed husband (he's 6'7"), whom she met online in **August 2014** while she lived in Florida, and he was living in Hawaii. They married in **November 2014** and moved to **Rancho Santa Margarita, California** together the following month. Between them, they had **six adult children**. In **2021**, they welcomed their only child together, **Josie**, bringing their family to one child for every day of the week. Josie brings light and laughter into everyone's lives. (Ask Carmella what Josie's latest story is—she'll gladly share.)

Carmella dreams of one day **owning a ranch** with horses and a few farm animals, living off the grid, and learning **Ham radio**—a skill she also hopes to introduce through LRC's community training programs.



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EXTRA SHORT LENGTH

Carmella Swanson is a **veteran labor and community leader** with nearly **30 years** of experience.

She is the **Founder and Executive Director** of the **Labor Response Community of the Inland Empire**.

Originally from **Tallahassee, FL**, and raised in **Columbus, GA**. She lives in Rancho Santa Margarita, CA with her **husband Jason** and their **daughter Josie**, the youngest of their **blended family of seven children**. Carmella is a fan of **genealogy**, **plants**, and she dreams of one day owning a **ranch** and living off the grid.



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MEDIUM LENGTH

Carmella Swanson is a **seasoned labor and community leader** with nearly **30 years of experience** advancing **worker rights**, growing **union membership**, and building **grassroots power**.

She is the **Founder and Executive Director** of the **Labor Response Community of the Inland Empire (LRC)**, a nonprofit she launched in **2024** to serve **union families** and **underserved communities** across **Riverside and San Bernardino Counties** through **disaster preparedness, workforce development, and economic resilience**.

She authored the business plan, secured **nonprofit status**, recruited the inaugural board, and helped obtain a **\$1 million State of California Jobs First Thrive Catalyst Grant**, awarded to LRC in partnership with **SoCalCOSH** and coordinated by **regional leaders** to launch the **Inland Empire Disaster Hub**.

Carmella holds certifications in **CERT, Red Cross Mass Care & Sheltering**, and the **Institute for Organization Management**, with active **insurance licenses** in **California, Florida, and Utah**. She earned her **B.S. from Florida State University** and **A.A. from Tallahassee Community College**.

Raised between her grandfather's **peanut farm in South Georgia** and **Fort Benning Base**, where her father served as an **LDS military chaplain**, she carries deep values of **service, resilience, and hard work**.

Carmella lives in Rancho Santa Margarita, CA with her **husband Jason**—whom she met online in **2014** while he was in **Hawaii**—and their daughter **Josie**, the youngest of their **blended family of seven children**. A **genealogy enthusiast** and **jewelry hobbyist**, she dreams of owning a **ranch**, living **off the grid**, and one day offering **Ham radio training** through LRC.



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SHORT LENGTH

Carmella Swanson is a **veteran labor and community leader** with nearly **30 years** of experience supporting **union families** and building grassroots power.

She is the **Founder and Executive Director** of the **Labor Response Community of the Inland Empire (LRC)**, launched in **2024** to deliver **disaster preparedness, workforce development, and economic resilience** across Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

She co-secured a **\$1 million State of California grant** to help establish LRC and the **Inland Empire Disaster Hub**.

Originally from **Tallahassee, FL**, and raised in **Columbus, GA**, Carmella's values were shaped by time spent on her family's **South Georgia farm** and **Fort Benning base**.

She lives in Rancho Santa Margarita, CA with her **husband Jason** and their **daughter Josie**, the youngest of their **blended family of seven children**. A fan of **genealogy, plants, and wire-wrapped jewelry**, she dreams of one day owning a **ranch** and offering **Ham radio training** through LRC.



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