

Susan Lewis Bergin
Biography

Susan Lewis Bergin is a mother of three and a regulatory attorney. She has lived in SOMA for over ten years and has been deeply involved in volunteer service to the SOMA community. Her service has focused on supporting local students to encourage their full inclusion in all that our schools and community have to offer.

In 2017, Susan led an effort to pay student lunch debt and worked with the District's Parenting Center to ensure students with empty lunch accounts are fed a school lunch and not stigmatized. She also created the Cougar Cares program to support food insecure students at CHS. Susan was on the team that purchased prom tickets for CHS students in need of assistance and then launched the CHS Senior Fund to ensure students are not excluded from other senior year rites of passage due to financial need. These programs have supported hundreds of students.

In 2019, Susan wrote the proposal for the creation of a community WiFi pilot program that won Maplewood's first Participatory Budgeting Contest. As a result, Maplewood created a free neighborhood WiFi pilot program that launched in the Seth Boyden neighborhood just as students began distance learning.

Susan served on the School Safety (HIB) Committee at both Marshall and Jefferson elementary schools. She coordinated dozens of parent volunteers in the Marshall lunch room for three years. Susan has also served on the CHS and MMS HSAs. She helped draft the District's food allergy management regulations, making our schools safer for students with food allergies.

Susan worked at Proskauer Rose LLP for six years, representing health care providers, and clerked in a federal district court. While in law school, Susan was a volunteer lawyer with the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau, representing indigent clients in family, housing and benefits matters. She has also served as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for youth in foster care in Essex County.

Susan has a BA and an MPA from Columbia University, and a JD with honors from Harvard Law School. She is a member of Maplewood's Recreation Advisory Committee and the Parenting Center's Steering Committee. Susan lives in Maplewood with her husband, Jim, and their three children, ages 4, 12 and 15.