

# Growing Connections

## After 12 years as a Bank Examiner with the FDIC, Melanie Rutan needed more flexibility in her career but still wanted growth.

Despite enjoying the professional challenges her position afforded, Melanie wasn't satisfied with the balance between her work and family commitments. "I wanted to continue my work in accounting without the travel that conflicted with my time at home." In 2001, with two children under five, Melanie responded to an ad for a part-time accountant at Bookmind. "I sought both flexibility and challenging work. Bookmind was a perfect fit!"

As Melanie's children aged, she expanded her client portfolio. "I worked extensively with nonprofits, our most complex clients." Her development continued as Melanie's prior experience led her into a teaching role at Bookmind.

"I led a lot of training at the FDIC so stepping into that role for Bookmind was easy."

Melanie's personal and social commitments expanded her accounting connections, further enhancing her career progression. Volunteer work Melanie performed for North Allegheny School District allowed her to develop relationships with CPAs she might not have met otherwise. "I was involved in PTA and boosters for Cheer, Swim and Diving in a variety of capacities. Because I spent so much time working with numbers during the day, I usually selected nonfinancial roles for my volunteer work. But, I always ended up somehow meeting CPAs. I think we just gravitated towards one another!"

The relationships Melanie developed created new opportunities with Bookmind, first as a Business Development Specialist and most recently with her promotion to Business Development Director. "My youngest went to college in 2017 so I was ready for the next challenge. I enjoyed talking about Bookmind and networking, so it was just a natural step. The professional growth I've experienced can largely be attributed to relationships I developed. I wouldn't be where I am today without those connections."

### Why Clients Use BOOKMINDERS

- Increase mission focus
- Implement efficient processes
- Address complex requirements
- Minimize accounting costs
- Improve financial controls
- Eliminate turnover disruptions

### Why CPA Firms Refer BOOKMINDERS

- Maintain independence
- Increase profitability
- Assure service timelines
- Focus on high value services
- Improve engagement efficiency
- Eliminate cleanup work

### About BOOKMINDERS

For more than 30 years, Bookmind has provided timely, accurate and cost-effective bookkeeping for nonprofits and small businesses. Its unique approach affords work-life balance to a staff of 80+ degreed accountants, while providing access to highly skilled professionals clients otherwise couldn't afford.

### About Melanie

Melanie Rutan, a graduate of West Virginia State University, is the Business Development Director for Bookmind Pittsburgh. She serves as Vice-President for the North Allegheny Unified Boosters and recently joined the Pittsburgh Youth Chorus Board as the Treasurer.



Melanie Rutan, Business Development Director