

Dr. Jill Novacek

Dr. Jill Novacek joined the Board of Directors of Seafarers' House at Port Everglades in 2009. She is a second generation Board Member following her father, Arthur Novacek, who was a Seafarers' House Board President and a recipient of the International Golden Compass Award for lifelong achievement in the maritime industry. Dr. Novacek serves as Secretary of the Board and helped to create Seafarers' House Annual Shoebox Christmas Program, which provides holiday gifts to seafarers who stop at Port Everglades during the holiday season. The Shoebox Christmas Program has become one of our signature programs as it enables community volunteers to have direct contact with seafarers and the Port Everglades community.

Dr. Novacek is owner and operator of Art By BobbyR, a commercial art business that sells art products and services to businesses in the maritime and tourism industries. The company's art products are sold onboard most of the major cruise lines and they have brought beauty and excitement to the office walls of many South Florida maritime businesses.

Dr. Novacek earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Vermont and her Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of California at Berkeley. She spent the ensuing 20 years as Director of Tulsa Institute of Behavioral Sciences (1988-2002), Senior Evaluator/Principal Investigator at Stockton California Unified School District (2002-2005), and Director of Research and Evaluation at the Committee for Children in Seattle, Wash. – an international leader in scientifically validated K-12 curriculum that promotes the safety and social-emotional growth of children in 25,000 schools.

During her scientific career Dr. Novacek created and tested objective methods for evaluating the performance of healthcare, social service, education, criminal justice, school anti-violence and anti-bullying programs. She has numerous publications in scientific peer-reviewed journals in these fields and has presented original research at many national scientific conferences.