



Keynote Speaker



Ian Forber-Pratt, MSW

To every tireless fundraiser in this room, to every leader working to sustain vital good work in challenging times: I see you. I see some of the unique pressures you face, especially in an unsettling world where resources often feel scarce and the fight for your mission is harder than ever. You are not alone in navigating these moments, and I am here to offer not just empathy, but practical, evidence-based insights forged in the very crucible of securing support and fighting for what's right.

My name is Ian Forber-Pratt, MSW (he/him/his). My journey championing child and family well-being is deeply personal, rooted in my beginning in a large orphanage in Calcutta, India. This fuels my dedication to rallying support for family-based care and spearheading global child protection reform, always leveraging resources for impact. Uncovering a child trafficking ring surrounding my adoption, during a BBC filming, reinforced my belief that authenticity and resilience are powerful tools for sustained support in fighting for what's right. More on that when we see each other in Oct.

As President of Children's Emergency Relief International (CERI), I lead a global team fighting for what is right by transitioning from institutional to family-based care. CERI's 2025 move to Austin is a strategic effort to rally new support, connect with a vibrant group of changemakers, and diversify resources. My background, including securing a \$1.4 million grant and founding an Indian organization funded by UNICEF, highlights my expertise in fundraising strategies that leverage authenticity and systemic change to build sustainable solutions- all in environments foreign to me.

My insights aren't theoretical; they're forged in the demanding realities of my own experiences building organizations and trying to keep them afloat. From emergency response during the Russia-Ukraine conflict to drafting national foster care guidelines in India, these experiences testify to rallying urgent support and fighting for long-term structural change. I'm passionate about sharing the critical link between leadership, ethical fundraising, and direct beneficiary impact.

My keynote, "The Unshakable Why: Authentic Impact in Uncertain Times," is designed to empower you. I will offer practical, evidence-based ideas to embrace vulnerability, prioritize self-care, and recognize that everyone plays a crucial role in building a stronger, more resilient nonprofit sector - why it seems almost impossible. Get ready to leave with renewed purpose and actionable strategies for rallying support, leveraging resources, and fighting for what's right in your own vital work. I hope we'll be open, honest, perhaps a bit imperfect, and truly human.