



For Immediate Release

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Saint John's Program for Real Change Announces CEO Departure

Marc Cawdrey will serve as Interim CEO

SACRAMENTO, CA - [Saint John's Program for Real Change](#), a Sacramento region nonprofit dedicated to empowering homeless women and their children, announced today that CEO Michele Steeb is relocating to Texas with her daughter and her husband who has accepted a new job opportunity. Marc Cawdrey, Saint John's COO, will serve as Interim CEO. Sasha Wirth, Vice President and Chief Development Officer, will continue to lead Saint John's development and communications efforts. Steeb will continue to work with Saint John's on the development of public and private partnerships as a consultant.

"The board is grateful for Michele's 12 years of service and leadership," said Phil Telgenhoff, Saint John's Board Chair. "We fully support her decision to put her family first and are indebted for the legacy she leaves behind at Saint John's. The organization is well positioned to continue meeting the growing needs of women and children struggling with addiction, domestic violence and homelessness in the Sacramento region."

"It has been one of my life's greatest blessings to serve at Saint John's," said Steeb. "Supporting women and children in overcoming barriers such as addiction, violent relationships, criminal behavior, lack of employment, and lack of self-worth, allowing them to become who they were intended to be, has been an amazing journey. Working side-by-side with our team of deeply committed and deeply talented employees, interns and board members has been an honor and an opportunity I will treasure forever. There is much more work to be done, both in meeting the capacity demands in this region and in replicating this model to assist other communities that desire to support single-mother-led families struggling with multiple barriers to

become self-sustaining. I look forward to continuing to work with Saint John's to address these pressing issues."

Since 2007, Steeb has led Saint John's during a significant period of growth and transformation. Under her leadership, the organization has:

- Transformed the 30-day emergency shelter serving 100 women and children daily to a comprehensive, 18-month program that serves up to 270 women and children daily.
- Launched three social enterprises: Plates Café and Catering, First Steps Child Development Center and Plates Midtown, all of which serve as hands-on "real-world" employment training programs for women.
- In partnership with the State of California, expanded to serve 50 women transitioning from prison back to the community.
- Brought together over \$6 million in funding from sources such as the Federal Home Loan Bank, Housing and Community Development, the City of Sacramento, Wells Fargo and Buzz Oates to create a campus that houses up to 230 women and children, including a \$4 million transitional housing facility that serves an additional 90 women and children daily.
- Expanded Saint John's funding from one government contract -- a contract which is no longer in place -- to a much more diversified funding base including earned income from its social enterprises, a strong base of individual, foundation and corporate support, and several new public funding sources.

About Marc Cawdrey

Marc brought more than 30 years of executive and entrepreneurial experience to Saint John's when he was named COO in 2016. His love of business was kindled early as product planning and development manager for PACCAR International in Bellevue, WA. Marc also served as president of Cawdrey/Rice Advertising, and then founder and chief executive of Brandfusion, one of San Francisco's largest integrated branding companies. After 22 years in the communications business, Marc became co-founder and COO of Laura DuPriest LLC, a specialty cosmetics manufacturing and sales company. He moved to Sacramento in 2007 to join the global e-commerce company SkinStore.com, one of the largest online cosmetics retailers in the U.S., and shortly thereafter began volunteering at Saint John's. The company sold to the HUT group in 2016. Marc and his wife, Sue, live in Fair Oaks and have three children.

About Saint John's Program for Real Change

Since its founding in 1985, Saint John's Program for Real Change has transitioned from an emergency shelter to a 12- to 18-month residential continuum of care, providing the tools women and children need to address the root causes in addition to the symptoms of homelessness. Each client and her family receives 675 service hours per

month including mental health therapy, one-on-one and family therapy, addiction counseling, life skills classes, a hands-on employment training program, an on-site high school diploma attainment program, job readiness coaching, career placement services, an on-site childcare and pre-K program and after-school enrichment for school-aged children. The largest residential program for formerly homeless women and children in Sacramento, Saint John's serves up to 270 women and children per day. Since its inception, Saint John's has helped more than 30,000 women and children break the generational cycle of poverty and dependence, one family at a time.

More information about Saint John's can be found at: <https://saintjohnsprogram.org>

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