



MEDIA CONTACT: April 29, 2022

Board names Rachel Bradley Sisu Youth's new director

The Sisu Youth Services Board of Directors announced today that Director of Resource Development, Rachel Bradley, will move to the role of Executive Director, when Jamie Caves steps down on May 1st, 2022.

Caves has served as the Executive Director since 2017 and has been with the organization since 2015. Jamie has seen services expand from a clothing closet once a week to 365 day shelter, three transitional living programs, and robust case management support. Sisu has become a community leader in youth services alongside many great partners with whom she has created strong collaborations and diverse support for youth. Under her tenure, Sisu purchased a new building and is looking forward to breaking ground on the renovation later this year.



"I'm very happy that our Board of Directors unanimously approved to appoint Rachel as our new director at the end of last year. I have served both as a volunteer and board member alongside Rachel since 2017, and I have seen her passion for this organization and the youth we serve," said board president Alex McGowan Rayburn.

"We understood that Jamie would be ready to leave this role in 2022," McGowan Rayburn continued, "and were privileged to be able to have Rachel work side-by-side with her for the last five months to make the transition as smooth as possible"

Bradley has a well-rounded experience with Sisu's programs. She began as a volunteer in 2016, served on the board of directors for three years, and has been on staff since 2021. Over the past 18 months, Rachel led the grant writing team to increase foundation and corporate giving by over 280%, secured a 3-year federal Transitional Living Program grant, and pursued capital funding for the construction of a new emergency shelter & drop-in facility.

Caves will continue to support Sisu through a reduced role with a specific focus on new program implementation and completion of the capital project.

Sisu has grown tremendously over the past few years, expanding to serve 16 youth in emergency shelter, increasing drop-in services to six days per week, and adding an Education Coordinator and a total of five case managers. “We know that ending homelessness can not be accomplished through emergency shelter alone, that shelter is simply treating the symptom.” Bradley stated, “Sisu’s board and leadership team are focused on looking at new and innovative ways to prevent & divert youth from homelessness and move those that are currently experiencing homelessness into stable housing.



Sisu is working towards that end by increasing the availability of hands-on case management services and transitional living programs. Quest launched in January and provides for 20 young people to move into apartments or host homes and Atlas will launch this summer with spots for 12 young people with a background of system-involvement. Sisu is also excited to be part of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project led by the City of Oklahoma City which will help expand youth services even more over the coming year.

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