



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
FEBRUARY 6, 2023

## **ST. JOSEPH CENTER NAMES LATONYA SMITH AS INTERIM CEO**

### ***Board of Directors launches search for new permanent leadership***

VENICE—St Joseph Center is pleased to announce the appointment of LaTonya Smith as its Interim CEO, effective immediately. Smith, who has been serving as St. Joseph Center’s Chief Program Officer since early last year, brings a wealth of experience serving vulnerable populations to this interim position. She will play a critical role in ensuring a smooth transition as the organization continues to serve 13,000 people annually in support of its mission to provide working poor families, as well as homeless men, women and children of all ages, with the inner resources and tools to become productive, stable, and self-supporting members of the community.

The Board of Directors simultaneously announced the formation of a special committee that will work with an executive search firm to identify a permanent replacement for St. Joseph Center’s CEO of 15 years, Dr. Va Lecia Adams Kellum, who left the agency to first head up Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass’ Inside Safe initiative and then, in March, to become the new CEO of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority.

Chairman Kevin McCardle said, “The Board and I have great confidence in LaTonya during this time of transition. We know that our staff and mission will thrive under LaTonya’s leadership while the search is underway for the person who will lead St. Joseph Center into its next chapter.”

Along with the Board of Directors, Smith will also be supported by St. Joseph Center’s seasoned Executive Team, which will work closely with her to ensure the Center’s continued success on behalf of people in need whom the organization serves.

“While serving as the Chief Program Officer, I have been inspired by the incredible positive impact St. Joseph Center has in people’s lives,” Smith said. “I understand that filling this interim role is both a privilege and a great responsibility. I appreciate the trust the Board has placed in me, and I am eager to help St. Joseph Center continue moving forward.”

**About St. Joseph Center**

St. Joseph Center is an independent, nonprofit 501 (c)(3), community-based organization. St Joseph Center's mission is to provide working poor families, as well as homeless men, women and children of all ages, with the inner resources and tools to become productive, stable, and self-supporting members of the community. The agency reached nearly 13,000 individuals last year through a variety of integrated programs. To learn more about St. Joseph Center's comprehensive services, please visit [www.stjosephctr.org](http://www.stjosephctr.org).

**Contact:** Paul Rubenstein, VP External Affairs, St. Joseph Center 213-268-1349 / [prubenstein@stjosephctr.org](mailto:prubenstein@stjosephctr.org)