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BREAKTHROUGH ANNOUNCES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TRANSITION

After nearly 20 years of service to Breakthrough, Yolanda Fields named as Executive Director

CHICAGO - Breakthrough announced today that Yolanda Fields, Chief Program Officer of the Adult Support Network, has been named the Executive Director of the organization, effective April 1, 2021.

The announcement comes after Arloa Sutter, Founder and Executive Director of the East Garfield Park organization, shared plans for her retirement last year.

After ten years of corporate experience, Fields began serving at Breakthrough as a volunteer in 2001. In December of 2003, she was hired as the Director of Street Outreach, and, in 2010, she was promoted to Director of ASN. She was appointed Chief Program Officer in 2015 and, under her leadership, Breakthrough's adult programs have expanded to include behavioral and mental health programs, addiction support programs, and the client-choice model for the Fresh Market food pantry. During her tenure at Breakthrough, Fields has walked alongside those experiencing homelessness and crisis and provided exceptional leadership for the largest team in the organization.

Yolanda Fields has served alongside Dr. Sutter on Breakthrough's leadership team for seven years as the Chief Program Officer of the Adult Support Network (ASN). Through a myriad of programs; including homeless intervention, workforce development, violence prevention, behavioral health, and a food pantry; ASN seeks to move adults from a position of crisis to one of stability and self-sufficiency.

"I am excited about the narrative we have already created in East Garfield Park and the things we have done to prove we are committed to this community for the long haul," said Yolanda Fields, incoming Executive Director of Breakthrough. "I am thankful for the opportunity to lead during this important time in our history. Our commitment to those we serve is as strong as ever, and, together, we're going to do great things."

Dr. Sutter founded Breakthrough in 1992 when she began serving coffee to men experiencing homelessness. For nearly 30 years, she has faithfully served the East Garfield Park community and overseen the growth of the organization to include a variety of programs and a 125-person staff.

"As our Founder and Executive Director, Arloa has led the organization from a place of high integrity and humility and with the heart of a servant," said Bill Curry, Chief Program Officer of the Breakthrough Youth Network. "I'm confident that Yolanda will follow in that same heritage as a high-integrity, humble leader who seeks good for others."

Breakthrough's Board of Directors and an appointed committee have led the Executive Director transition process.

"Yolanda is an exceptional, impact driven servant leader," said Tarrah Cooper-Wright, CEO and Partner of Rise Strategy Group and outgoing Board Chair. "As a board, we're thrilled to have her at the helm as

Breakthrough works to advocate for racial, educational and economic justice that breaks down barriers, so that families have the chance to thrive regardless of race or class in East Garfield Park and across the city. We are forever indebted to Arloa for her vision, drive and commitment to the community since founding Breakthrough and are grateful for her continued counsel and support.”

“Yolanda is a multi-talented, highly qualified person of deep faith with relentless focus on the stewardship and governance of Breakthrough, as well as an unwavering commitment to the people of East Garfield Park,” said Derreck Robinson, Managing Director of Deloitte Consulting and incoming Board Chair. “It will be an honor to serve with Yolanda as she assumes the role of Executive Director of Breakthrough.”

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About Breakthrough

Breakthrough partners with those affected by poverty on Chicago's West Side to build connections, develop skills, and open doors of opportunity. With a hyper-local, 40-block focus in East Garfield Park, Breakthrough offers several services and programs for homeless intervention, youth development, and neighborhood transformation.