

For Immediate Release

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Willis Dady Homeless Services Welcomes Alicia Faust as New Executive Director

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, August 17, 2020 -The Board of Willis Dady Homeless Services is pleased to announce the selection of Alicia Faust as its new executive director. Faust replaces previous Executive Director, Phoebe Trepp, who returned home to Minneapolis to be closer to family. After leading the agency to measurable growth and development, Trepp now serves as Executive Director for Clare Housing, an affordable housing and health organization serving people leaving homelessness who have HIV/AIDs.

The Board selected Faust after an extensive regional search led by a team of current Board Members, staff and the local search firm Skywalk Group. The Willis Dady Interim Director, Marcy Oates, will assist Faust as she transitions into her new role.

“We are so very excited to have our own Alicia Faust promoted to the role of Executive Director,” said Board President Mike Schulte.

“Since joining the Willis Dady team, Alicia has shown remarkable leadership in bringing many projects to successful completion. Her energetic work ethic combined with her strong ability to bring people together behind a common cause makes her the ideal leader to take Willis Dady to the next level, pursuing our vision of empowering our clients to break the cycle of homelessness and become self-sufficient.”

Faust started her role of Executive Director on the morning of August 17, 2020, directly on the heels of last week’s Derecho which damaged the 4th Avenue Emergency Shelter roof and electrical system and impacted hundreds of clients in the metro area.

“Immediately following the catastrophic derecho storm last week, it is my intention to take the best care of our staff and clients as possible. This is a severely traumatic event that everyone is experiencing, it is not just impacting a handful of people; this is tens of thousands of individuals experiencing trauma. We all need to take care of each other and ourselves during this time not only physically but also mentally and emotionally, said Faust, continuing, “I also plan to continue working with our community to fill those gaps we are seeing during a disaster like this and how we can ensure the best services are being provided.”

When asked about her long-term goals for the agency, Faust responded, “It is my hope to continue supporting and building the Willis Dady legacy as our Executive Director.”

“Our agency has changed and grown so much in the last five years that it's hard to imagine how we used to be. Willis Dady has always been committed to filling gaps in the community in order to best serve our clients in innovative ways. It is my plan to work with our staff to build programs for gaps we have already identified in the community including, affordable desirable housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, intensive mental health and substance use supports, Veteran services, and employment training and opportunities. I want to identify the "why" in our work in order to continuously improve the who, and the what.

Faust graduated with a Bachelor of Social Work from Wartburg College in 2012. After four years as a Housing Support Specialist with Friends of the Family in Waverly she joined Willis Dady as the Veteran Housing Case Manager. In 2017 she moved into the role of Support Services Manager where she developed both short-term and long-term rapid re-housing programs, a new Permanent Supportive Housing initiatives through Welborn House, Cedar House and Crestwood Ridge and a Veteran programming through a new Government Per Diem contract with the federal Veterans' Administration. She began her most recent role with the agency began in 2019 as the Housing Programs Director where she supervised those newly developed programs, hired and managed the staff to provide the direct client supports, and continued identifying new funding opportunities to expand Willis Dady's housing services.

Willis Dady Homeless Shelter was founded in 1987. Its mission is to provide shelter, employment and prevention services to the homeless and near-homeless, with the vision of empowering clients to break the cycle of homelessness and become self-sufficient.

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