



Transitional Housing for Families in Need

For Immediate Release
January 29, 2019

Contact: Anita Beninger, FUSION
Email: anitamedia@beninger.org

Local Transitional Housing Agency Names Executive Director New Leader Brings Distinguished Record of Nonprofit Growth and Impact

Federal Way, WA – FUSION proudly welcomes Robin O’Grady as its new Executive Director. A highly-regarded leader of human services organizations in Kitsap County, Robin will begin her new role on March 1 and joins the FUSION team at an important time in its history.

“We’ve been remarkably successful as an all-volunteer organization in our first quarter century,” says Board President Byron Hiller. “Hundreds of homeless families have come through our program, and the vast majority move on to permanent housing. But the homelessness crisis is getting worse, and our community needs us to do more. Robin brings the nonprofit leadership experience and the program development expertise we need to expand our service to even more families.”

FUSION Co-founder Peggy LaPorte is enthusiastic about the new leader’s arrival. “I’m so impressed with Robin, not only by her background and what she’s accomplished so far, but also by her way of dealing with people. Our volunteers will love her. And she has such a big heart for this work! I couldn’t be more pleased.”



Robin O’Grady

Robin served for ten years as Executive Director for West Sound Treatment Center in Port Orchard, which provides chemical dependency treatment, case management, supportive housing and other services to people who suffer from substance abuse. She grew the organization by more than 300% during her tenure. While there she developed the first substance use disorder treatment program in Kitsap County Jail, pairing it with re-entry services including supportive housing programs for those exiting incarceration. Robin then organized and led *Kitsap Connect*, a partnership with Kitsap Public Health District, Kitsap Mental Health and Kitsap Community Resources, which provides wrap-around services to high-frequency users of local emergency services. Most recently, Robin worked at St. Vincent de Paul in Bremerton where she supervised their homeless shelter program, advised their thrift store operation and served on the financial leadership team. Robin has received numerous honors in recognition of her work, including the YWCA of Kitsap County “Woman of Achievement Award” in 2016.

“What a legacy the FUSION founders and dedicated volunteers have created!” says Robin. “I’m honored to be a part of such an extraordinary organization. I look forward to increasing our community impact by advancing innovative programs and fostering community partnerships that uplift those facing homelessness and other critical barriers.”

FUSION is a nonprofit volunteer-powered organization that provides housing and support services for homeless families so they have a safe, secure environment as they work toward self-sufficiency. FUSION currently owns and manages 19 residential units in Federal Way and Northeast Tacoma, as well as a retail operation that generates a portion of the organization’s operating funds. To learn how to volunteer, make a financial contribution or donate furniture, please visit www.fusionfederalway.org.