

## HopeWorks News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### HopeWorks Names New CEO

*Leon Dixon will serve as CEO of agency supporting people experiencing homelessness*

**ALBUQUERQUE, NM** (October 6, 2023) – Leon S. Dixon, Jr. has accepted the CEO role at HopeWorks, one of the largest nonprofits serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness or near-homelessness in New Mexico. Dixon will assume the lead at HopeWorks before the end of the year.

Dixon says, “I’m genuinely thrilled about the opportunity to lead an organization with such a profound history of serving the homeless community in Albuquerque, rooted in the belief in the inherent dignity of every person. Looking ahead, I’m eager to collaborate closely with our management team, our steadfast supporters, and the community itself to ensure the continuation and growth of these essential services. Together, we’ll work to not only address the immediate needs of those we serve but also foster a sense of community - preserving the well-being and dignity of all.”

Dixon will begin as the new CEO after relocating to New Mexico from Minnesota, where he currently serves as the Executive Director, Chief Executive Officer, and Chief Housing Officer for the Redeemer Center for Life.

Prior to his role at the Redeemer Center, Leon established himself as a DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) visionary and social justice champion at numerous large organizations, including Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota and Mount Saint Mary’s University in Maryland. Dixon also served in the US Army Infantry and is an honorably discharged, disabled veteran.

“Leon’s experience leaves him uniquely qualified to assume this role and we are very excited about having him join our organization,” Pat Dee, Chairman of the HopeWorks Board of Directors. “In addition to his service as an army veteran, Leon has worked in several roles in the non-profit world that we believe give him exactly the type and depth of experience to ensure his success as our CEO. We believe that his demeanor and background make him very capable of helping us fulfill our mission of healing homelessness.”

Dixon inherits a fiscally sound organization with a strong culture of love and compassion, as crafted by the most recent CEO, Annam Manthiram, who left the agency in July to serve as the CEO of CitySquare in Dallas.

“With empathy and compassion, Dixon is a transformational and influential executive leader who focuses on providing strategic guidance, facilitating efficient operations, ensuring financial stewardship, and cultivating strong relationships which makes him the ideal candidate to continue our mission,” said Dee.

The HopeWorks Board of Directors is grateful to Chief Human Resources Officer Vicky Palmer for taking on the role of Interim CEO with courage and confidence, employing her many years of experience to ensure consistency and forward movement during our search for the next permanent CEO. The Board would also like to recognize the efforts of the other members of the core management team who provided excellent assistance to Vicky during this interim period.

**About HopeWorks:** Founded in 1985, HopeWorks is one of the largest nonprofits serving the needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness or near-homelessness in New Mexico. Every year, approximately 8,500 people access our mental and behavioral health, outreach, and housing services as well as visit our onsite day shelter for basic needs: food, clothing, mail, storage, showers, hygiene and telephone/internet access.

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