



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO RETIRE

Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri (CCSOMO) announces the retirement of Executive Director/CEO **Maura Taylor** in December 2022. Taylor has led the nonprofit organization for the last 11 years working with her team to expand needed services to the vulnerable of all faiths in the 39 southernmost counties in Missouri. Under her leadership, CCSOMO has grown from a staff of two and a budget of \$200,000 to an agency with 110 employees and a budget of over \$11 million, operating out of nine offices throughout southern Missouri.

"I have said many times that I felt called to this position to serve the needs of the vulnerable and I have been blessed to have the opportunity to put my faith in action," Taylor said. "I have been able to use my education (MBA), my past experiences, and collaborative work with community partners to address the challenges of helping our neighbors in need in order to create opportunities for long-term impact and change."

Although the humble beginnings of Catholic Charities date to 2009, the agency itself hit the ground running in 2011 with the historic Joplin EF-5 tornado and the floods in southeast Missouri: CCSOMO and its growing staff responded and became the largest provider of disaster case management and home repair/rebuilding services in the area. Since those beginnings, CCSOMO has established over 12 programs that meet local needs, including Homeless and Homelessness Prevention Services; Veteran Services; Home Repairs for Low-income Households; Targeted Case Management for the Developmentally Disabled; LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home in Springfield, serving homeless pregnant women and their young children; HUD Financial Counseling; Springfield's Rancho Temporary Shelter and Housing Programs for Homeless Families; Community Re-entry Program; Consumer Credit Counseling Services; Healthy Moms/Healthy Babies; Dedicated Dads; On the Job Construction Training, and more. The success of the Springfield's LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home has resulted in a capital campaign and plans to build a new LifeHouse in Cape Girardeau to serve southeast Missouri. To date, over \$6 million in funds have been raised and the project is expected to be completed by December 2023.

Under Taylor's leadership CCSOMO has been recognized for its work and received the following awards:

- 2018 Nonprofit Organization of the Year - Drury University Southwest Missouri Nonprofit Excellence Awards
- 2018 *Springfield Business Journal* (SBJ) Economic Impact Award (6-15 year in business category) - SBJ Economic Impact Awards
- 2021 SBJ Charitable Nonprofit of the Year - SBJ Economic Impact Awards

Taylor has represented CCSOMO and the community on multiple boards and committees at the local, state, and national levels.

The Board will begin a national search to find a person with a mission heart, organizational skills, and experience to take the leadership role and guide an incredible team of compassionate and dedicated staff that works everyday, walking alongside those most vulnerable in our midst and guiding them on a path to self-sufficiency and success. The work of Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri continues: **Reaching Out. Providing Hope. Changing Lives.** For more information on CCSOMO, its mission, and ministries for all persons, visit www.ccsomo.org.

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