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Side by Side Announces Upcoming Retirement of CEO Mary Denton

Denton to Retire on September 1, 2021 After 20+ Years at Side by Side

Side by Side's Board of Directors Convening Search Committee to Select Successor

San Anselmo, Calif. (March 9, 2021) – [Side by Side](http://www.sidebysideyouth.org), a San Anselmo-based nonprofit that serves vulnerable youth and their families in four Bay Area counties, today announced the upcoming retirement of Mary Denton as Side by Side's chief executive officer. Denton will retire on September 1, 2021 after serving at Side by Side for over 20 years.

During her tenure as Side by Side's CEO, Denton led the agency through significant program expansion and a deepening of services for clients and their families across the Bay Area, following a major reconfiguration of services away from residential treatment to community-based service and a merger with Bay Area Youth Centers. She also spearheaded a successful rebranding in 2018. As a result of Denton's leadership, Side by Side has grown from serving 1,000 youth and their families annually to nearly 2,000 clients a year. Additionally, the agency grew from approximately \$6 million in revenue to \$10 million during her tenure.

"After more than two decades at Side by Side, I have made the decision to retire to focus more on family and personal interests. Side by Side has never been stronger as an organization and I am confident that this is the right time for me to transition without affecting the agency's strength and ability to serve our clients," said Mary Denton, Side by Side CEO. "I am especially proud of the work we have done over the past year, rising to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, coming together as an agency, and watching our staff go above and beyond to serve our youth. There is no doubt in my mind that this level of service and dedication will continue throughout this transition process."



Mary Denton to retire as Side by Side's CEO on September 1, 2021

Denton will continue to lead Side by Side's day-to-day operations and its vitally important work of serving youth in the Bay Area through August 31, 2021. Side by Side's board of directors has convened a CEO succession committee, and is putting together a thoughtful, values-based process for selecting Side by Side's next leader. In order to facilitate a smooth transition to new leadership, Denton has appointed Larry Woodland (former director of clinical practice and North Bay regional director) to serve as chief program officer. Woodland will assume responsibility for all program operations of Side by Side, effective immediately.

"Mary has provided Side by Side with superb leadership and admirable dedication. Her passion for the agency and her commitment to deliver vitally important programs and services has changed thousands of lives for the better. The board of directors has the most profound gratitude for Mary's leadership and many years of service, and we wish her the absolute best for her well-deserved retirement," said Howard Schomer, Side by Side's board president. "None of the work Side by Side does would be possible

without the dedication, passion, and resilience that the team brings to the agency. We are confident that their commitment to their work will make for a smooth transition, and that our search will identify an excellent candidate to lead Side by Side into the future.”

About Mary Denton

Denton was appointed CEO of Side by Side in 2010. She also served as Side by Side’s chief finance and administrative officer (2008 – 2010), consultant to the board of directors and CEO (2004-2008), and chief financial officer (2000 – 2004). Prior to joining Side by Side, Denton was a consultant for major international banks and financial institutions, focusing on strategy, policy and business implementation in international investments and financial markets. Denton was also vice president at Bank of America, working on international syndicated lending and investment management for 19 years.

Denton serves on the boards of CVNL and the California Alliance of Child and Family Services, and previously served on the board of Marin Humane and was board president of Friends of Marin Center. She holds a bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of California, Riverside, and a master’s degree in business administration from the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley, as well as the Chartered Financial Analyst designation. Denton is a California native, has lived and worked in New York and Latin America, and now resides in Marin County.

MEDIA, PLEASE NOTE: For more information or to request an interview with Mary Denton or Howard Schomer, please contact Noelle R. Moss at nmoss@sidebysideyouth.org or (415) 457-3200 ext. 114.

ABOUT SIDE BY SIDE

At Side by Side we walk with young people impacted by adversity on their unique journeys to heal from trauma, restore resilience, and embrace their own potential. We provide critical and comprehensive services that honor the young person’s unique needs and strengths to prevent the escalation of dangerous conditions and behaviors and set them on a positive path. When they feel seen for who they are today, we believe our youth can move with confidence toward a future with meaning and connection. Since our founding in 1895 as an orphanage – and through many years as Sunny Hills Services – Side by Side has been at the forefront of best practices in child welfare. Today, Side by Side operates in four counties – Marin, Alameda, Sonoma, and Napa – across the Bay Area, each year reaching nearly 2,000 youth ages 5-26 and family members with critical services related to behavioral and mental health, early intervention in schools, LGBTQIA+ support, transitional housing for foster youth, and special education. Learn more about Side by Side, please visit www.sidebysideyouth.org.

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