



Announcement of Executive Director Retirement and Appointment of New Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers (RoS) has announced that Anna Pavan, the charity's Executive Director, is retiring as of June 26, 2020 after 18 years with the agency.

"The Board of Directors is so grateful for Anna's leadership over the past 12 years as Executive Director. Anna has demonstrated commitment, compassion and forward thinking as Rose of Sharon met the changing needs and aspirations of young pregnant and parenting mothers. She has left her stamp on the agency and built a great foundation for the charity to develop from as we face a post COVID-19 world," said Susan LaRosa, Board Chair.

Welcome Deanne Kukulewich – New Executive Director

Rose of Sharon's Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Deanne Kukulewich as its new Executive Director. "The Board conducted a wide search for an individual with Deanne's experience and skills as well as her openness to work collaboratively in meeting the ever-changing needs faced by our youth parents. We are confident Deanne's leadership will continue to enhance our services and successfully lead our charity in its future development," noted Ms. LaRosa.

Deanne was the Director of Immigrant Services and Community Programs with Catholic Community Services of York Region (CCSYR), having worked with CCSYR for almost 12 years. She holds a degree from York University and has completed her HR Management studies from Algonquin College. Deanne's primary focus is to help people, nurture and develop programs, and foster a culture of passion and excellence.

"I have always admired the good work that Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers (RoS) does in the community. So many lives have been enhanced by the programs and services RoS provides," commented Deanne. "I am grateful to have this opportunity to work with a team so dedicated to supporting and empowering young mothers with the tools and confidence they need to succeed. What also speaks volumes about this vital organization is that even during these difficult times, this dedicated and talented group of staff, volunteers and Board of Directors remained steadfast in their commitment. Together they continued to serve our young mothers - with the integrity and compassion they need and deserve."

For 35 years, Rose of Sharon has provided free supportive programs and educational services each year to close to 300 prenatal and parenting young mothers (under 25 years) and their children living in York Region. Our mission is to "empower young mothers to embrace their strengths and support the future they envision for themselves and their children". Offered in a welcoming and inclusive space, youth have free access to life-changing resources that support young mothers as they continue their high school education, develop parenting skills and strengthen personal resiliency qualities while they build greater stability in their young families' lives and work towards their hopes and dreams.

- 30 -

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