



"Everyone deserves a safe place to call Home."

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New Front Steps Director Named

Homeless shelter and housing experience to energize community

Austin, TX – The Front Steps Board of Directors announced today the selection of a new Executive Director to lead the organization. Stephen Luteran, LCSW, will step into the role effective January 19, 2012. Luteran is relocating to Austin from Burke, Va. and brings some 25 years of social service and executive leadership experience to Front Steps.

“Front Steps is fortunate to have found a leader with housing and emergency shelter experience who also has a proven track record of working within the community to enhance resources for those who need them the most,” said John McFarland, Front Steps Board President.

Luteran’s background includes an extensive history as Executive Director with Catholic Charities, Diocese of Arlington, a 21-county service provider, during which time he led initiatives to establish both an emergency shelter and a transitional homeless shelter. “The need in our country to lend our neighbors a hand continues to grow as more individuals and families struggle in poverty and homelessness,” said Luteran. “I look forward to growing the programs and services Front Steps provides so that we can better address homelessness in Austin.”

Front Steps, a nonprofit whose mission is to end homelessness by providing shelter, affordable housing and education, manages the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH), a medical respite program and a number of permanent supportive housing programs. Each year, Front Steps provides about 10,000 homeless men and women with basic needs, medical care and shelter while placing almost 200 individuals in housing.

The leadership at Front Steps changed twice in 2010 as long-time Executive Director, Helen Varty stepped down from the post to take a position with Rebekah Baines Johnson apartments for low-income seniors. Varty’s successor, Jim Ormand, vacated the position after a 90-day performance review. The organization has functioned under direct oversight of the Board of Directors since August of last year when a national search for new leadership was initiated.

“2012 holds a fresh start for Front Steps and Mr. Luteran will challenge our organization and the community to do more to end homelessness, because we can and because it is the right thing to do,” said McFarland.

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