



SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER
Rise Up AND Act for Justice

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NAC Welcomes Megeen White as Associate Director

(Silver Spring, MD) -- Fran Eskin-Royer, Executive Director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd (NAC), welcomes Megeen White, MS, RN to the newly created position of Associate Director.

"On behalf of our provincials, the sisters and lay partners-in-mission in the three provinces of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd in the U.S., and the NAC advisory committee, it is a pleasure and a gift to welcome Megeen White. She comes to us with rich experience, having served as a missionary in Africa, worked in faith-based organizations and nonprofits, and engaged in healthcare outreach to the marginalized of Baltimore," said Fran Eskin-Royer.

"Megeen is uniquely equipped to step into Good Shepherd advocacy where she will take the lead on issues of poverty and immigration. As a nurse, she has seen first-hand the impacts of SNAP and Medicaid, and the importance of mental health supports in low-income communities. Her background, thoughtful advocacy and direct service work also will inform and deepen our engagement with Good Shepherd agencies and expand NAC's understanding and effectiveness as we tackle human trafficking, violence and abuse, poverty, economic justice, mental health, immigration, and other concerns impacting those on the margins.

"Megeen's move back to faith-based work, and to advocacy in particular, stems from the present moment, and her commitment to Catholic Social Teaching and to those so often forgotten or dismissed. I am grateful to have her collegiality and her energy at NAC," said Fran.

"I am thrilled to join the NAC team and to be a lay partner in the critical mission of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity Sisters of the Good Shepherd community," said Megeen White. "This community of women and their partners-in-mission exhibit bold faith, compassionate and intentional action and single-mindedness about their mission of reconciliation and human dignity which both inspires and challenges me to bring all my energy, hope and expertise to this role every day despite the enormous and difficult tasks we encounter.

"Working with Executive Director Fran Eskin-Royer is a privilege and a joy. Her passion for our mission is evident in every conversation, meeting or demonstration. Her years of experience with advocacy and social justice ministry and her kind and supportive demeanor make this work not only successful and meaningful but also delightful, hope-filled and energizing. I'm excited to learn more about the community and the advocacy we engage in from her.

"I am also excited to collaborate with our many partners in the DC area and around the country – our partner-in-mission agencies, their clients, multiple faith-based and other advocacy organizations and individuals with a heart for justice. Together we are making a difference, raising awareness of the dignity, concerns and hopes of people living on the margins and in vulnerable situations and working with legislators and staffs to pass more just and compassionate laws," said Megeen.

Megeen has spent her career accompanying people who were ill or marginalized. She lived in Zimbabwe and Zambia for three years working at a medical clinic, leading youth ministries and teaching science and theology to high schoolers and seminarians. Cutting her teeth in advocacy, Megeen also taught students about Catholic Social Teaching, social analysis, and the importance of advocating for social change.

Years later, Megeen served as co-director for the same lay mission organization, Franciscan Mission Service of North America, where she co-managed the organization, facilitated international meetings, recruited and trained lay missionaries and gave educational retreats focusing on cross-cultural difficulties.

As a nurse, Megeen provided high-quality care to patients battling a variety of complex chronic and/or progressive conditions. She also led events, managed programs and lobbied for research and family support funding for those with hydrocephalus and Alzheimer's disease. And as a nurse coordinator, Megeen implemented successful health programs, educating patients about their conditions and how to improve their outcomes, and advocated with providers and community organizations to obtain care, services and equipment to achieve patients' healthcare goals.

At NAC, Megeen will bring together her hands-on work, training, outreach and advocacy experience to benefit all people, especially those who are supported by Good Shepherd Sisters and their partner-in-mission agencies.

As the associate director, Megeen is the lead for issues of poverty/economic justice and immigration, particularly as they impact women and children. She shares responsibility with the executive director for advocating and developing the issue agenda to influence decision-making in Congress. She helps mobilize and educate Good Shepherd Mission Partners (sisters and lay partners such as affiliated social service agencies) and others on the issues, all the while coaching them on the process of advocacy.

The National Advocacy Center serves the three provinces in the United States: NY-Toronto, Mid-North America and Central South which are in the process of merging into a single region. NAC was founded in 2001 by Sr. Brigid Lawlor, RGS.

[The National Advocacy Center](#) educates and advocates on social justice issues for the transformation of society to the benefit of all people reflecting the spirituality, history and mission of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. NAC advocates at the Federal level for people living in poverty, immigrants, survivors of human trafficking, survivors of domestic abuse, and other vulnerable populations.

The National Advocacy Center reflects the spirituality, history and mission of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (better known as the Sisters of the Good Shepherd). The sisters and their agencies work in solidarity with the

disenfranchised – particularly families, women and children – who often are forgotten, left-behind or dismissed.

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd was founded in France in 1835 and are in 70 countries on 5 continents and have had a presence in the United States for over 175 years. With a presence in 22 states and 1 U. S. Territory, the Sisters and their Lay Mission Partners have dedicated themselves to serving girls, women and families who experience poverty, exploitation, vulnerability and marginalization.

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