

A New Chapter

Covenant House
welcomes our new
Executive Director,
Rheneisha Robertson



Covenant
House

2021
Spring Report



Dear friends,

The Covenant House Board of Directors is thrilled to introduce you to our new Executive Director, **Rheneisha Robertson**.

Rheneisha is a passionate advocate and demonstrated public health professional with over 20 years' experience in Nonprofit Leadership and Community Public Health. A New Orleans native (and graduate of St. Mary's Academy, Xavier, and Tulane), her extensive resume reflects a dedication to positive youth development and adolescent & women's health.

Throughout her career she has worked to improve the overall health outcomes and quality of life of marginalized communities, with a particular interest and focus on women, youth, and communities of color.

As a member of the board's search committee, I was impressed by Rheneisha's thoughtfulness, warmth, and intelligence right from the start. I was most struck by her ability to not only listen to but truly hear those with whom she interacted.

I am honored to serve alongside Rheneisha as the incoming Board Chair. Covenant House was my first job after college, and the lessons I learned about unconditional love and absolute respect have stayed with me for life. I am certain that Rheneisha will build upon the proud legacy of this special place and help our youth achieve even greater heights. God bless,

Deidre Hayes, DSW, BCD, LCSW-BACS
Board Chair

Meet Rheneisha

Name: Rheneisha Robertson

Hometown: New Orleans, LA

Interests: International travel & food

Education: Master of Public Health,
Tulane University School of
Public Health & Tropical Medicine

Bachelor of Science in Biology,
Xavier University of Louisiana



Additional Training: Brian Bell Metropolitan Leadership Forum & Rockwood Leadership Institute's Art of Leadership program

Professional Background: Nonprofit leadership & public health, including serving as Chief Operations Officer & Chief Programs Officer at the Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies

Community Involvement: Girls on the Run NOLA, Greater New Orleans Breastfeeding Advocacy Coalition, Emerge LA, Iggy's House – A Nia Robertson Foundation, New Orleans Metro Stars, and Off the Field Players' Wives Association



From the Desk of Rheneisha

Family

New Orleans has been and will always be home. After a brief hiatus living and working in Chicago, my husband and I returned to New Orleans to raise our family here. Our deep local roots and commitment to serve our native community keeps us grounded, and we are so blessed to now be a part of the Covenant House family.



Early Background

I became acutely aware of the disparities in health outcomes from my own personal and secondhand experiences. These early experiences led me to my studies in the sciences at Xavier University and pursuit of a degree in public health from Tulane School of Public Health, with a concentration on youth, women, and communities of color.



Professional Experience

I've spent the last 15 years cultivating youth empowerment and promoting systems that better serve their needs. This includes a focus on addressing our young people's exposure to adverse conditions that often lead to further vulnerability. I bring 20 years of learning and experience in the areas of adolescent health and development, healthy equity, and community wellness.

The "Cov Community" has a deep passion for helping our most vulnerable youth in New Orleans thrive. I am so fortunate to work with a skilled and dedicated team that understands the experiences of our youth and the importance of working with them from a trauma-informed lens.

I am most excited to work directly with and on behalf of our residents. Their energy is infectious; their resilience is inspiring; and their boundless potential is incredibly motivating.

Vision

I hope to bring fresh perspectives and new ideas that will help CHNOLA continue to evolve and grow. I am humbled to follow in the footsteps of many great leaders at CHNOLA, and work with our incredible team to love and protect our kids. Together we will continue to build upon the foundation of absolute respect and unconditional love, and deliver programs and care that are unmatched. Thank you for being in community with us!



A Tribute to Jim

In January, Covenant House staff and community members had the opportunity to celebrate Jim Kelly's many years of service to CHNOLA.



With his wife, Ginny, Jim founded Covenant House New Orleans in 1986 and returned to lead and revitalize the organization in 2011.

To commemorate Jim's incredible legacy at Covenant House, our staff and board of directors gifted Jim a painting of the Covenant House campus—commissioned from a talented alumnus of our programs. Our administration building has also been named in Jim's honor, a lasting reminder of his dedication to our community.



Jim will remain a part of the "Cov family" as a member of the the Covenant House International team.

Watch our video tribute to Jim at covenanthousenola.org/tribute-to-jim.

Join us! Supporting our youth is as easy as a walk in the park.

April 3, 2021

Team Covenant House

Allstate Sugar Bowl
Crescent City Classic 10k

Run, walk, jog, or roll with us!

- ✈️ Raise funds and awareness for Covenant House youth
- ✈️ Join us for a socially-distanced Race Day Drop-In at City Park
- ✈️ Receive official CCC Shirt, bib, medal, and a special Covenant House swag bag!

Learn more and sign up at covenanthousenola.org/ccs