



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Non-Profit Leader Announces Intention to Retire

(Omaha, NE) – Laura Buddenberg, Executive Director of Essential Pregnancy Services (EPS), has announced her intention to retire early 2023.

Her involvement at EPS spans more than 36 years of service, both as an EPS employee and, before that, a volunteer. Her last day at work will be Feb. 28, 2023. She plans to spend more time with her husband, who retired a couple of years ago.

Her tenure with EPS has included two separate stints as its leader. She began as a volunteer in October of 1985, and served as Executive Director from 1997-2000. She returned to EPS as Executive Director in September 2019 after nearly 20 years at Boys Town.

EPS has seen significant growth under her leadership over the past three years:

- ▶ She has maintained full staffing and uninterrupted services during the COVID pandemic, while maintaining world-class client satisfaction scores.
- ▶ Laura negotiated both the sale of the longtime EPS building at 6220 Maple St., which houses professional counseling, a baby boutique, parenting classes and administrative offices, and the organization's move to the new Catholic Charities St. Teresa of Calcutta Campus at 93rd and Bedford Streets. Co-locating with Catholic Charities provides easy access for EPS clients to their food pantry, domestic violence program, job training, and mentoring-mom program.
- ▶ With speaking engagements and a regular presence on Spirit Catholic Radio, she gave EPS enhanced visibility in the community.
- ▶ Laura has worked with staff, board members and an outside consultant to craft and execute a strategic plan to continue EPS' mission into the next 50 years. EPS, founded in 1973, celebrates its golden anniversary in 2023.
- ▶ Financial support for EPS has reached new heights under her leadership. She has worked with staff, especially Director of Advancement Dawn Hovey, to develop, increase and nurture a strong base of engaged and committed supporters.

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In addition to her role at EPS, Laura, together with other pro-life leaders across Nebraska, helped found the Nebraska Pregnancy Care Alliance (NPCA), and currently serves as NPCA Board President. The NPCA exists to unify and strengthen pregnancy help organizations across Nebraska by providing support, resources, and training.

As she leaves, EPS is financially stable, has an excellent leadership team, the organizational chart reflects the right people in the right roles, and EPS has earned a reputation for providing excellent care for women who are pregnant and parenting their babies. EPS is poised to thrive in a post-Roe future.

Laura loves EPS and its mission to serve women and their families in unexpected and under-supported pregnancies. She looks forward to continuing her support for EPS in her retirement.

The Board of Directors of EPS is grateful for Laura's professional leadership, positioning EPS to serve women and their families for the next 50 years. The Board will immediately begin a search for the right leader for the next phase of growth for EPS.

EPS is a 501(c)(3) organization that exists to provide life-affirming, holistic support to women experiencing unexpected or under-supported pregnancies. For more information, contact EPS Board President Kim Volpone at kim@volpone.us or 402-301-4402.

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Attachment: Photo of EPS Executive Director Laura Buddenberg

