

Dear Renascence Friends and Supporters:

It is bittersweet to let you know that I have stepped down as executive director at Renascence. My husband and I decided to move to Birmingham to be closer to both our immediate families. That's the sweet part. The bitter part is having to leave Renascence and the opportunity to serve at such a fine organization. Working with the residents has been an eye-opening experience from which I have learned much.

I started working for Renascence almost two years ago with the hope and prayer that I could make a positive impact on the residents who lived there. I didn't know what was in store for me then, but I knew there would be challenges as well as joys. Since then, I have come to understand what a privilege it is to come alongside the men who call Renascence home. As I listened to their stories, what was most clear is that they are all unique, their backgrounds are often complex, and all their stories are compelling. These lessons will stay with me forever. The men have impacted me more than I could possibly have had an impact on them! I am a better person for having worked at Renascence and meeting everyone there.

Thank you to you for your encouragement and support of me. The remaining staff are dedicated to Renascence and its mission and are doing a great job; I ask that you continue to support them. The board members have been especially helpful and encouraging to me and I will be forever grateful to have worked with them. They are tireless in their willingness to see Renascence, its staff, and its residents thrive. There are a few more board openings if you want to join them!

None of the residents can or should be defined by a single bad decision they made in the past that led to their incarceration. They all deserve a second chance; not all will do the most or best with that second chance, but Renascence gives them every opportunity to restart on a new path. Your ongoing support makes that possible and it is not taken for granted.

Thank you once again and I wish the very best for Renascence, its staff, and the residents.

Sincerely,

Susan Hunt Sims