



Dear members and outside affiliates,

The CORE Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Nicholette Smith-Bligen has been selected as the organization's next Executive Director. Nicholette succeeds Heidi Goldsmith, our Founder and Executive Director who retired as executive director last month and has been working as a consultant for CORE since then. Heidi, who met Nicholette during the search process, had this to say about



Nicholette.: "I am delighted with the selection of Nicholette as the next Executive Director of CORE. Nicholette brings a wealth of experience and expertise in child welfare issues; she is a strong advocate for children and youth, and is enthusiastic about CORE and its mission."

Nicholette has over two decades of leadership experience in child welfare, youth development, education and mental health. Her career has focused on the educational and social advancement of children and youth in underserved communities. In recent years, she has held senior leadership positions in both the public and private sectors, which included executive positions with organizations such as the DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation and the District of Columbia's Child and Family Services Agency.

Currently, as Chief Operating Officer for Sasha Bruce Youthwork Inc., Nicholette is responsible for the organization's services and supports to at risk youth and their families. She has an undergraduate degree in Sociology/Administration of Justice from Virginia State University and a Master's degree of Social Work from Yeshiva University, Wurzweiler School of Social Work. In 2006, Nicholette completed the rigorous executive leadership program through George Washington University Center for Excellence in Municipal Management.

Nicholette's commitment to improving the lives of children, youth and families is also demonstrated through her work in her own community. Nicholette is the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of Martha's Table, a non-profit that provides food, clothing, educational programs and enrichment opportunities to at-risk children and youth in the Washington, D.C. area. Nicholette is also one of the founders of It Takes A Village EduCare Center, an early learning center in Maryland.

Please join us in welcoming Nicholette to the CORE community. Nicholette will begin her new duties on June 16th. Heidi is working as a consultant since she left her full-time employment with CORE, and she and Nicholette are already working together to plan a smooth transition.

A special thanks to Dr. Ed Knight of Presbyterian Children's Services, and Tina Aycock of Hope Village, for their service on the Executive Director Search Committee. Both put in many hours helping us select the right person for this position.

Sincerely,



Moe Dozier
Chair, CORE Board of Directors



Heidi Goldsmith
Founder, Executive Director