



Alternatives, Inc.
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HAMPTON, VA July 30, 2018 - The Board of Directors for Alternatives, Inc. is pleased to announce the appointment of Ragen Johnson as the new Executive Director beginning August 1, 2018, following the retirement of Kathy Johnson. For 45 years, Alternatives, Inc. has provided outstanding service to its community and for 18 years Kathy Johnson was at the helm. Now that Kathy Johnson is retiring the Board believes the impact of Alternatives will continue with the leadership of Ragen Johnson.

Dr. Erica Woods-Warrior, the Board President, believes Ragen is a strong fit for the role. "The Board and staff are supportive of Ragen's transition into the role of Executive Director. Kathy Johnson has successfully led us to a remarkable place in Alternatives history, and Ragen's experience and passion will help us to forge ahead to even greater heights. Her history with the organization, understanding of our culture, and passion for youth development is noteworthy. The board has set a bold vision for Alternatives in the coming years and we will support Ragen and our entire team to see it accomplished."

The organization's mission is to inspire young people to realize their inherent potential as valued members of the community and inspire adults to recognize this same potential. By the year 2020, the Board hopes to see Alternatives recognized as a leader in the development of cutting edge strategies that support healthy growth and development of children, youth, and families. This is just one of four bold goals set for the organization going into this transition.

Ragen currently serves at Alternatives as the Lead Coordinator over a nationally recognized early childhood program. She brings a wealth of leadership experience to her new role. At Alternatives, Ragen has successfully raised money for the agency by planning and coordinating fundraising events, has written grants for submission to local foundation funders, has developed relationships with State Senators and Delegates to raise awareness of agency community impact, and has oversight of program evaluation data for early childhood, middle and high school programs. Ragen completed her studies at Christopher Newport University earning a degree in Social Work and Political Science and a graduate degree in Public Administration from Norwich University.

Ragen said she is honored by the Board's confidence in her and is eager to continue the great legacy in Alternatives. "I'm very excited to continue and expand the great work being done by Alternatives! I've been involved in Alternatives programs since I was a kid in elementary school, so I know firsthand the impact the agency has in the lives of young people. Alternatives helps develop many skills such as leadership, creativity, and opportunities to serve others which is important to me. The work of Alternatives inspires young people and adults and helps make our community a place where young people have a voice and can be heard!"

In 1973, Alternatives, Inc. began as a drug treatment center for youth, but in 1992 transitioned its service to youth development. The implementation of innovative best practices will continue to be a hallmark of the agency's culture as it moves forward under new leadership. To learn more, please visit www.altinc.org