



Leadership Announcement from Civic Heart Community Services

Dear Community Partners and Friends,

I am pleased to share that Anita Bates has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of Civic Heart Community Services.

Anita brings more than 25 years of experience across both corporate and nonprofit sectors. She began her career in the oil and gas industry, where she gained a strong grounding in operations, structure, financial discipline, and accountability. That experience continues to shape how she leads today.



Anita's nonprofit journey began right here at Civic Heart Community Services. From that starting point, she built a leadership career focused on fundraising, strengthening partnerships, advancing programs, and ensuring organizations remain responsive to the communities they serve. She has spent years working at the intersection of mission, strategy, and impact, helping organizations grow while staying true to their purpose.

As Chief Executive Officer, Anita will lead Civic Heart's strategy and operations, with responsibility for organizational leadership, financial stewardship, fundraising, program alignment, and community partnerships. The Board is confident in her ability to guide the organization forward with clarity, steady leadership, and a deep understanding of our work and our community.

Founded in 1989, Civic Heart Community Services, formerly known as Change Happens, has worked alongside Houston communities for more than three decades to expand opportunity through youth development, education, workforce readiness, housing stability, mentorship, and supportive services. Anita's appointment reflects our commitment to honoring that legacy while continuing to strengthen the organization for the future.

We are grateful for your continued partnership and support, and we look forward to the work ahead together.

Warm regards,

Reva Witherspoon

Interim Board Chair

Civic Heart Community Services