



Memphis Oral School
for the Deaf

*Empowering Deaf Children
to Listen, Learn, and Talk*

MEDIA CONTACT

Jesse Demastus
Secretary, MOSD Board of Directors
901-491-9134
jessedemastus@yahoo.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 1, 2021

MOSD Announces Departure of Executive Director and Begins Executive Leadership Search

Germantown, TN – Germantown-based nonprofit Memphis Oral School for the Deaf will be seeking out new leadership as Executive Director Lauren Hays announced plans to accept a new position in her hometown of Louisville, Kentucky.

“MOSD has such a special place in my heart. I am full of sadness, gratefulness, and love as I leave behind an amazing organization, staff family, and the children who I am privileged to hand-hold daily. I will treasure all of the relationships built at MOSD and in our community as my family and I head back home to Louisville in October,” said Hays.

Hays is the parent of a child who is deaf and hard of hearing who received services at MOSD. She became the Development Director in 2016 and was selected as the Executive Director in March of 2018. Hays is native to Louisville, and has received recognition for community service, civic involvement, and was featured in the Memphis Business Journal for her administrative leadership.

“I am proud of the exceptional team of professionals who lead our programs at MOSD. We have overcome challenges in a pandemic and have met fear with courage. Through resilience, one thrives. I leave MOSD knowing this organization is on sound financial footing and that its staff and Board of Directors will ensure future success and impact of our mission,” said Hays.

Hays will begin her new role as CEO of Day Spring on October 25th. Day Spring was founded in 1994 and provides quality residential services and opportunities that empower people with developmental disabilities to live joyful and fulfilling lives in integrated community settings.

President of the MOSD Board of Directors Lindsey Donovan Rhea noted, “Lauren has been instrumental in leading our staff, teachers and students through an incredibly challenging time and placing MOSD in a position of unparalleled success and stability in our 60-year history. MOSD is blessed to have had her serve our organization these past five years. We are incredibly thankful for her tireless efforts and steadfast dedication to advance our mission, and we wish her the absolute best as she moves closer to family and takes on this new challenge.”

The MOSD Board of Directors has developed a search committee which will be actively pursuing its next executive director in the coming months through a local and national search, if needed. Hays will be relocating to Kentucky in mid-October but will remain involved with MOSD and will assist in the search process as well as the transition and onboarding of the new executive director.

Memphis Oral School for the Deaf is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that has been empowering deaf children from the Mid-South to listen, learn and talk for 60 years. The school utilizes oral instructional methods to help each child develop speech and language skills. At MOSD, children who are deaf and hard of hearing from birth to six years old receive specialized listening, speech and language education that will allow them to successfully enter kindergarten with their hearing classmates. For more information visit www.mosdkids.org or email info@mosdkids.org.

--end--