

AGAPE's Leadership Changes to the Next Generation

On Saturday, July 20th, the AGAPE's Board of Directors announced Karla (Chapman) Alexander, the organization's General Manager, to succeed Eileen Chapman in the role of Executive Director. Eileen has decided to retire after 15 years of dedicated service to our local community while serving as the first Executive Director of AGAPE.

Acting upon a call that God gave to her and her late husband, Eileen took a leap of faith in founding AGAPE: Love from Above to our Community in 2009. In the fifteen years of its founding, Eileen has led through some of the most difficult seasons in our community including the flood of 2011 and the COVID-19 pandemic. While she faced many of these challenges, she maintained a strong commitment to her community and to God, thinking only to serve the community through His Love. All of us on the board, and the AGAPE community at large are so grateful for all that Eileen has built, both in this organization, but also in the leadership that she has built in others, and the loving, compassionate relationships with all. Words cannot express the gratitude that we have for the foundation laid by our wonderful founder and Executive Director. We know that as Eileen retires we carry on a heavy burden of leadership that she leaves behind, but are thankful that she has done her utmost to prepare us all for the future to come. AGAPE will always be built upon the work and legacy of Eileen Chapman. Congratulations Eileen on your retirement, we all love you so very much.

Eileen was able to bring a family legacy into the AGAPE ministry over the last fifteen years her children and grandchildren have faithfully served with her and now carry on her legacy.

Karla has been with AGAPE since 2009. Karla volunteered as the coordinator of that Food Pantry which involved receiving and distributing food to seven county sites once a month. While volunteering, she concurrently was establishing a varied work experience, including geriatric care, manufacturing leadership skills, church leadership, and hospitality management. This unusual career path gave her knowledge, skills, abilities and personal experiences that led her on the journey to a paid position at AGAPE. In 2018 she was hired as a data entry assistant. From there she was recommended for the position of Director of Operations and Finance and later General Manager. Her passion to help others and serve others engrained by her Christian faith has made AGAPE her home away from home.

"I am humbled to have the opportunity to step into a role of a ministry that my parents dreamed of and carry on their legacy into the next generation," said Karla "For fifteen years my mother, Eileen, has led ministry and our community to make sure that AGAPE truly helps fill in the gaps so no one falls through the cracks and she leaves a large shoes to fill. I will work hard along with the faithful members of the AGAPE staff, board, volunteers and our community to continue and grow the great work Eileen has started here. I look forward to growing our partnerships, collaborations and sponsors so that no one is left behind."

Eileen's parting wisdom, "I pray that the community we serve has benefitted and will continue to benefit because of our established interrelationships with our local, county state governments, other local non-profits, churches and businesses that have established a community that cares but can also look to the near and far future to extend that caring as the concerns are better identified."

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