



Dear Friends of Willow Center:

I wanted you to be among the first to hear that after much deliberation, I am leaving Willow Domestic Violence Center. Starting in January 2018, I will become the new President and CEO of United Way of Greater Rochester.

This decision was not made lightly. Willow holds a very special place in my heart, as do all of you. And our work isn't done.

The last five years have been some of the very best of my life. I have felt beyond lucky to have had the good fortune of joining this organization, partnering with such amazing and talented people and seeing firsthand how together we can best support domestic violence survivors and their families.

We have accomplished so much together. Willow is healthy and strong – with a completed \$8.4 Million capital campaign, a new state-of-the-art facility, public location, name change, and expanded programs and services now in six locations – the future is very, very bright.

Willow is fortunate to have an incredible Board of Directors who live out the mission and continue to be true stewards of this agency. Willow's exemplary staff, who show up each day to do this most difficult work with passion, talent and heart, are some of the most dedicated professionals you will ever meet. I leave knowing that Willow is in very, very good hands. I am excited about Willow's future as it continues to grow and expand its impact for so many.

With rates in Monroe County far higher than that across the state, I will continue to dedicate myself to addressing the core issue of intimate partner violence, just at a different table and at a systemic level.

I remain deeply committed to Willow and to ensuring a smooth transition for this phenomenal organization. I am working with the board on a transition plan process and expect an Interim CEO will be named before I leave at the end of the year. The Board is forming a Search Committee which I will support as we seek the next leader of this incredible organization. If you have any questions or concerns, our Board Chair Barbara Purvis is available and can be reached at bpurvis@essexrochester.com.

Please know that no matter your involvement with Willow, YOU are a big part of what makes this life-saving work possible. I am grateful that you will continue to stay engaged and support this agency we care so much about – to best support the thousands of survivors who turn to Willow each year.

With eternal gratitude,

Jaime