



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families President Announces Retirement
Patricia Littlejohn to Retire After 20 Years Championing the Importance of Fatherhood

COLUMBIA, SC – Patricia Littlejohn, president of the South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families, will retire in the summer of 2022. The Center is a ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System that works to reduce child poverty by ending father absence. Her retirement comes as the Center celebrates its 20th anniversary and commemorates serving more than 25,000 fathers across the state.

“Pat is one of the pioneers in the fatherhood field, and her work has helped make South Carolina a national leader in serving fathers,” said Tom Keith, president of the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina. “She is a servant leader with a heart for fathers and a passion for service that has been central to the Center’s success strengthening communities by helping fathers and families.”

Littlejohn has been part of the Center since its creation in a career that spans nearly 30 years of non-profit service and leadership. As a program officer for the Sisters of Charity Foundation, she was instrumental in the development of the Fatherhood Initiative when it began in 1997. She later helped establish the Center in 2002, formally becoming president in 2005.

Under Littlejohn’s leadership, the Center experienced tremendous growth and impact including:

- Pioneering the development of a national model for successful fatherhood engagement programs
- Creating a network of six regional fatherhood organizations and countless state and community partnerships offering fatherhood services across the state
- Serving more than 25,000 fathers and positively impacting 56,000 children across South Carolina
- Creating innovative programs like “Jobs Not Jail,” resulting in more than \$20 million dollars in taxpayer savings
- Advocating for policies that remove barriers for fathers and allow them to meaningfully support their children and their communities

“Pat’s commitment to supporting fathers is inspiring,” said Warren Bolton, board chair for the SC Center for Fathers and Families. “Although she is humble to a fault, it would be hard to overstate Pat’s role in promoting the importance of father engagement to the lives of children, the well-being of families, and the prosperity of our communities. The Center has been blessed to have her, and we’re going to miss her.”

The Center's board has formed a search committee to find the next leader of the organization and provide a smooth leadership transition for the Center. A new president is expected to be named by early summer.

"Providing a voice for fathers has been my life's great work and it has been a joy to be part of the Center," said Littlejohn. "The results that we have achieved to date have been life-changing for fathers and communities across South Carolina. I know that the Center will continue its great work to strengthen families and communities in the years to come."

About the South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families

The South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families is a ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System. Its mission is based on the conviction that children thrive when an engaged, responsible father is active in their lives. In South Carolina, many children live in a father-absent home, and the consequences are dire. To address this problem, The Center supports six regional fatherhood organizations with 14 locations providing services to every county of the state while promoting father-friendly policies and practices and helping to erase society's negative stereotypes of non-custodial, low-income dads.

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