

Michele Steeb, Executive Director

St. John's Shelter for Women and Children

Since joining St. John's Shelter for Women and Children as executive director in 2007, Michele has transformed the then 23 year old Shelter into a continuum of care that addresses the root causes of homelessness through education, supportive services and employment training. Under Michele's direction, St. John's launched two successful Employment Training Programs, Plates Café and Catering and First Steps Child Development Center, that provides the skills needed for formerly homeless women to gain and maintain employment. The cafe provides on-the-job training for women in the St. John's program with the goal of helping them to become self-sufficient. The new eatery is managed and staffed by women who have graduated from St. John's employment training program.

Michele engineered an expansion this summer of Plates Cafe, opening a midtown location called Plates2Go. It sells take-out or eat-in lunch fare for the community as well as offers a private conference room for groups wanting to meet over lunch. Meals can be ordered online.

Michele also launched St. John's Supportive Housing Program, which provides safe, stable housing for families working toward self-sufficiency. Through these efforts St. John's is able to achieve its mission to support homeless women with children to advance from a point of crisis to a position of self-sufficiency.

St. John's will move into a 28,000 square foot building within three miles of the current shelter (locations are confidential for the safety of clients, all are homeless and most are victims of domestic violence). The new facility will allow St. John's to triple its classroom space.

Michele has served on the Policy Board to End Homelessness for the past four years and she is a member of its steering committee. She chaired the Stepping Stone Task Force, an effort to provide a safe and structured transitional living environment to those formerly living at Tent City, and is currently chair of the Permanent Housing Committee of the Policy Board. She was appointed by Governor Brown to California's Prison Industry Authority and is a member of the Board of the Power Inn Alliance.

For both her work at St. John's and in the community, Michele received the following honors in 2010/2011: Martin Luther King Jr. Difference Maker; Regional Social Equity Leader (Valley Vision); Women Who Mean Business (Sacramento Business Journal); Non Profit Visionary of the Year (Sacramento News & Review); Sacramento Magazine's People of the Year; and the Sacramento Metro Chamber's Al Geiger Memorial Award. In 2013 Michele was named one of the Top Execs of 2013 (Sacramento Business Journal) and in 2014 she was named the Woman of the year by Assemblyman Roger Dickinson for his District, District 7.

Prior to St. John's, Michele ran Public Affairs for the California Chamber of Commerce where she managed several major initiatives and more than quadrupled their political revenue in her three-year tenure. She was founder and chief executive officer of two technology-based companies and has run several successful political campaigns.

Michele and her husband Jim live in Gold River, California. They are parents to four boys (Jacob, Zach, Joey and Christian) and one girl (Brooklynne) and have served as a host family for several foreign students.