



For Immediate Release:
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ATLANTIC STREET CENTER ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SEATTLE, WA - Atlantic Street Center is pleased to announce our new Executive Director, Someireh Amirfaiz, a proven leader with a strong history of forging sustainable relationships and achieving positive outcomes benefiting the community. Someireh will fill the vacancy created by Edith Elion when she retires after forty years of service to ASC at the end of the year.

“We are delighted to announce this appointment,” said Bob Vivian, Atlantic Street Center Board President. “As we build on more than a century of legacy and services to our communities, Someireh’s proven leadership, experience, creativity, and commitment to equity made her a clear choice to lead our organization into the future.” Her appointment initiates an exciting new phase for Atlantic Street Center as the organization continues to deepen its services to meet the changing needs of a growing community.

“Someireh’s commitment to creating opportunities for marginalized communities is critical in our efforts to provide wraparound services to meet the needs of low-income African-American children, youth, and families of color,” said Board Member Brenda Fitch.

Someireh holds Degrees in Psychology from the University of Washington and Seattle University and is currently completing her Doctorate Degree in the College of Education at Seattle University. As an accomplished leader, Someireh’s non-profit experience includes twenty-five years of advocacy, leadership development, administration, communications and community mobilization. She served as the Executive Director of Refugee Women's Alliance (ReWA) for twelve years where she led the agency through tremendous growth and expansion. Someireh has served on numerous Boards and Committees to increase awareness about the causes of disparities and inequities facing racial and ethnic minorities.

“We are particularly excited about her demonstrated leadership, vision and passion as well as her experience leading a capital campaign and the success she had refining and sharpening organizational vision and mission of the agencies she has led,” said Board Member John Martin. “As an accomplished leader, she has demonstrated innovative strategies and ideas in all aspects of her leadership. We believe her expertise in those areas will enhance and benefit our organization immensely.”

“United Way of King County is pleased to hear Someireh Amirfaiz will lead Atlantic Street Center,” said Jon Fine, President and CEO of United Way of King County. “We value our long-standing partnership with Atlantic Street Center and look forward to working with Ms. Amirfaiz to serve children, youth and families of color in King County.”

Someireh’s selection came after a national search and selection process that included input from staff, community and ASC Board members. The search team was chaired by Board Member Rick DuPree who

said, “As we strive to be the premier agency serving the African American community, we are excited about her strong track record of being a fearless advocate for social change and social justice. It became crystal clear during the interview process that Someireh was a true leader, a visionary, and the right person to lead Atlantic Street Center moving forward.” The staff and Board are excited to welcome Someireh to the team starting October 2.

“To champion justice and social equity is hard work. I’m honored and excited to lead an organization that has demonstrated a sustained and unwavering commitment to the common good,” said Someireh. “I’m confident that Atlantic Street Center will lead the way in turning the focus on structural disadvantages that impact the equality of opportunity for so many families of color. As we identify what needs to be changed, we will enhance our collective work towards a systematic approach to solving problems of inequality and inequity.”

Atlantic Street Center (ASC) is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization providing educational, family support and mental health counseling services for children, youth, and their families. ASC primarily serves low-income African-American and other families of color who reside in central, southeast and greater Seattle area. For more information, visit www.atlanticstreet.org

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