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Nick Foster named Executive Director



Nick Foster

COLUMBIA, Mo. – Nick Foster has been named Executive Director of the Voluntary Action Center (VAC), Alex George, President of the Board of Directors announced today. Foster will replace Cindy Mustard, who will retire on September 30 after spending 20 years as Executive Director of the agency.

“We are absolutely delighted to welcome Nick as the new Executive Director of VAC,” George says. “From a field of strong candidates, Nick stood out as bringing a wealth of nonprofit experience to the role, which will allow him to pick up Cindy Mustard’s mantle and continue to grow and develop VAC’s mission to provide services to families and individuals in need.”

Foster, who will assume full-time duties on Tuesday, October 4, most recently was executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Morgan County, Indiana. He moved to Columbia in 2010 when his wife, Candace Kuby, took a faculty position as an assistant professor of early childhood education at the University of Missouri.

“I’m very excited about the opportunity to serve the Columbia and Boone County communities in this new position,” says Foster. “The Voluntary Action Center has a stellar reputation for doing good work, addressing a variety of needs for low-income people.

“Like many others, I am grateful for the dedicated, capable leadership of Cindy Mustard, a gift that is impossible to quantify. The years ahead promise great opportunity for making this an even better place to live for all our citizens, and I look forward to joining the excellent VAC staff in order to be part of it.”

Foster grew up in Birmingham, Alabama and lived also in Louisville, Kentucky and Knoxville, Tennessee before moving back to Alabama as the pastor for University Baptist Church in Montevallo, Alabama. He later served Passport, Inc. in Birmingham as a camp coordinator and project director. He was also executive director for the Alabama Poverty Project, a research and education organization, located in Birmingham. An ordained minister, Foster also is known as a storyteller, speaking in a variety of settings nationwide. He has two grown sons who live in Alabama.

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“As the nonprofit world continues to come to terms with the on-going economic situation, the Board looks forward to working with Nick to help steer VAC through the unprecedented challenges that lie ahead of us,” says George. “He has the vision, and the passion, and a heart for service that will be needed to keep the Voluntary Action Center at the forefront of the on-going fight against poverty in Boone County.”

The Voluntary Action Center (VAC) is a not-for-profit social service agency funded by the Heart of Missouri United Way, the City of Columbia, Boone County, the Interfaith Council of Churches FISH fund, FEMA, Boone Electric Trust, Veterans groups, business and individual donors. The organization has been the heart of service in Boone County for more than 40 years, providing basic and emergency services to families and individuals in need and supporting volunteerism throughout the community. All proceeds raised in support of VAC remain in Boone County. Visit our website at www.vacmo.org or call (573) 874-2273 for more information.

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