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Lead to Read KC Announces Leadership Transition

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (October 2, 2023) — After more than eight years of dedicated service to the organization, [Lead to Read KC](#) Executive Director Pauly Hart is stepping down to pursue other endeavors. She will stay active in her role until the end of December to support a smooth transition while Lead to Read engages in a comprehensive search for a new Executive Director.

During Pauly's time with the organization, she guided impactful growth and transformation of the organization, contributing to a more than fourfold increase from 300 to 1,400 Reading Mentors serving nearly 30 schools in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Her approach to community partnerships was instrumental in expanding opportunities for students to develop skills that extend beyond reading, including social and emotional support. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she guided staff and volunteers to overcome numerous challenges and find new ways to support students. Earlier this year, Pauly was recognized by [the 15 and the Mahomies Foundation](#) with the "Community MVP" award for her efforts supporting children's literacy in the region.

"It has been an honor to serve Lead to Read KC for the past eight years in this role," said Hart. "My passion for children's literacy is unwavering, and I am proud of the strides we have made. The need for reading and mentoring has never been greater, and I am grateful for the tireless dedication of Kansas City's educators along with our staff, Reading Mentors and board members whose support makes the organization's mission possible."

The board of directors will lead the comprehensive search for the new executive director.

"Pauly is a steadfast advocate for children's literacy, and we greatly appreciate her leadership in mobilizing the community around this important issue," said Mark Swanson, who serves as both a Lead to Read KC Board Member and corporate partner through Burns & McDonnell. "On behalf of the board, staff and volunteers, we look forward to celebrating her accomplishments and supporting the organization in its search for the new executive director."

For more information on Lead to Read, or to learn about opportunities to volunteer or support the organization, please visit www.LeadtoReadKC.org.

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About Lead to Read KC

Founded in 2011, [Lead to Read KC](#) is dedicated to supporting the social, emotional and reading skills that are foundational to student success. It does this by mobilizing community volunteers, called Reading Mentors, to read one-to-one with students attending high-need elementary schools across Kansas City. Other support services include Tutoring, Reading For Life Author Partnerships and Reading Is Everywhere Book Distribution Initiative.