



NEWS RELEASE

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New Board Members Selected for Willow Tree Missions

Monticello, IL – Two area residents have been chosen to join the Board of Directors at Willow Tree Missions. Ashley Barnes and Marcia Mathis have been selected to fill two vacant seats. Barnes is a speech language pathologist at Washington Elementary in Monticello where she has served for 10 years. She joined the Willow Tree Board of Directors to help spread God’s love by taking action in her community to help those affected by domestic violence. Her goals are to help spread awareness throughout the community about Willow Tree’s mission and services, while also helping to bridge awareness and services to students in the school districts.

Mathis is the Assistant Director of Budget and Finance at the Roy J. Carver Biotechnology Center (CBC) at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. In this role, she oversees the operational, financial, regulatory, and business functions of the center. Mathis holds a bachelor’s degree in biology from Illinois State University and an MBA from Eastern Illinois University. She learned about Willow Tree Missions a couple of years ago and was deeply moved and inspired by the Willow Tree Missions story. After reading about the organization’s history, growth and its remarkable work in Piatt County, Mathis felt compelled to become involved with Willow Tree Missions.

“First of all, we would like to thank the 10 residents who expressed interest in our vacant Board of Directors seats. We are excited to have Ashley and Marcia join the board because they bring a breadth of experience which will be helpful in our mission of eliminating domestic violence and building stronger families. Our board is very involved and active in our mission, and I’m confident they will make great additions to the team!” , said Jill A. Maxey, Executive Director of Willow Tree Missions.

ABOUT WILLOW TREE MISSIONS: Established in 2007 first in Cisco and now in located in Monticello, Willow Tree Missions is a Christ centered non-profit corporation that operates resale shops that fund services for victims of domestic abuse. Family Service Center staff assist clients determined to escape abusive situations and create healthier, safer environments for themselves and their children. For victims in imminent situations, Willow Tree Missions provides emergency shelter and assistance with clothing, transportation, and household needs. The organization partners with law enforcement officials and community advocates to obtain orders of protection, safety planning, and legal referrals. To help clients move forward, Willow Tree Missions also provides ongoing crisis and spiritual counseling. Recognizing the interaction between education, substance abuse, and emotional/physical trauma, Willow Tree Missions has instituted Christ centered support programs and proactive educational outreach initiatives.



Ashley Barnes



Marcia Mathis

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