



## News Release

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### **Lakeside for Children CEO Don Nitz to Retire. Search for New CEO Begins.**

October 9, 2017 [KALAMAZOO, Mich.]: Don Nitz, chief executive officer of Lakeside for Children since 2006, has announced his retirement, effective April 2018. A search for his replacement is underway.

Prior to taking over as Lakeside CEO, Nitz served as superintendent of the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home for more than 20 years. During his Lakeside tenure, the agency has expanded offerings on campus and enhanced its reputation as a sanctuary for troubled kids from the Kalamazoo area, throughout Michigan, and nearly a dozen other states.

In 2007, Nitz helped Lakeside select Sequel Youth & Family Services to operate campus programs. Sequel operates programs across the country for children with behavioral and cognitive challenges. Its mission on the Lakeside campus is to prepare students to lead responsible and fulfilling lives by providing mentoring, education, living skills, and support within a safe, structured, dynamic environment. Through Lakeside Academy, its staff-secure residential program operating on campus, more than 140 Sequel staff members help students focus on the confrontation and redirection of negative behavior while recognizing desired, positive behavior.

Nitz also helped the Lakeside board establish Lakeside Charter School, a charter school on the Lakeside campus authorized by Kalamazoo Regional Educational Services Agency and governed by an independent school board. The school operates year-round and teachers help students recover lost credits that will transfer to their home school districts or earn enough credits to graduate from Lakeside or earn a GED.

“I’ve loved my time at Lakeside,” Nitz said. “I’m grateful to the students, staff, board, donors, and other friends of Lakeside who’ve helped make my work so rewarding. I’m especially grateful to the greater Kalamazoo community for their continued support of this institution. Lakeside is a great asset to the community and the community is vital to its continued success.”

The search for a new Lakeside CEO has begun with the expectation of having someone in place by early 2018. It will continue to be a part-time position reporting to the Lakeside for Children board of directors.

(more)

According to Joseph Brogger II, Lakeside board member and CEO search committee chair, candidates for the position should have experience negotiating vendor contracts and business relationships, experience with community and donor relations, and the ability to provide strategic leadership and to implement board initiatives. Experience with residential, educational, and/or treatment programs for adolescents is highly valued. A successful candidate must also be able to pass a background check by the Michigan State Police.

“We realize that not every candidate will possess all of Don’s core competencies,” Brogger says. “The person we select to lead us forward will be someone who demonstrates strong leadership skills, possesses the ability to work with a diverse group of stakeholders, and has a compassion for helping kids.”

Brogger said some key accountabilities for the position are to: serve as the primary liaison between the Lakeside for Children board and Sequel, as well as with the boards of the Lakeside Charter School and Lakeside for Children Foundation (the fiduciary partner of the parent board that accepts all financial gifts to Lakeside); perform in compliance with all policies established by the board, the State of Michigan, and the Joint Commission accrediting body; provide information and analysis to facilitate the board’s decision-making activities and strategic planning; provide administrative support to the board, assist in their development, and develop budgets and financial performance for their review; and oversee the appropriate preservation, care, and maintenance of Lakeside for Children assets such as real and personal property.

Brogger asks qualified candidates to submit a letter of application and résumé via email to [apply@lakesideacademy.net](mailto:apply@lakesideacademy.net), or by post to:

Lakeside CEO Search  
Lakeside for Children  
3921 Oakland Dr.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Established in 1907 as a farmhouse orphanage for boys in Kalamazoo, Michigan, Lakeside for Children is now a residential treatment facility for abused and neglected boys and girls, ages 12 through 17. Up to 124 youths live and attend school year-round on Lakeside’s 48-acre campus. Its mission is to prepare children to lead responsible and fulfilling lives by providing mentoring, education, living skills, and support within a safe, structured, dynamic environment.

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