



Nexus Recovery Center's CEO A. Rebecca (Becca) Crowell Retires After 30 Years of Dedicated Service to the Nonprofit

Becca began her work at Nexus in 1990 as a Program Director. Her responsibility was to design and open a Women and Children's Program, which did not exist at the time. That same year, the facility relocated from a center in downtown Dallas to an 11-acre campus on La Prada Drive in east Dallas (where they still are today) to provide a wider array of services. After a few months, the board asked her to serve as the Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and in 1991 they hired her as the permanent CEO.

Becca says, "The most important thing for me when I joined Nexus was to deliver quality programs; programs just as good as those offered at expensive, private treatment centers. In particular, I wanted low-income clients to have the opportunity to receive the care they needed to break the cycle of addiction, regardless of their ability to pay".

The new 11-acre space on La Prada Drive enabled Nexus to become a leader in treatment for women by allowing children to accompany their mothers into treatment, a goal near to Becca's heart. Nexus opened a program for adolescent girls and expanded the adult women program to 40 beds that same year. Recognizing there were no treatment providers who would accept pregnant or newly parenting women and adolescent girls, Nexus began filling this gap in 1994 and is one of the few providers to this vulnerable group in Texas. In 1996 the Women's Auxiliary of Nexus was formed, which is now The Auxiliary of Nexus.

To meet the needs of the children accompanying their mothers into treatment, the Crystal Charity Child Development Center was built in 1999 to house a nursery, pre-school classrooms, after school activity rooms, and a gross motor skills therapy room. In 2010 a portable building for research was added to further addiction science and assure that it was grounded in reality. Today the building houses their Recovery Support Services team. Pregnant and Parenting Intervention services were also added that year. In 2011 Nexus began providing onsite medical detoxification services. In 2012 the Carolyn Jones Waghorne Youth Hall was opened, expanding the adolescent program to 30 beds. In 2017 Nexus began offering medication-assisted treatment (MAT) to meet the demands of the opioid epidemic. In 2018 speech, occupational, and physical therapy became available to Nexus children with funds provided by the Crystal Charity, and due to a request

from the Department of State Health Services Negus began providing medication-assisted treatment to pregnant women.

Nexus was selected as a community-based treatment setting for the Clinical Trials Network, funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and was one of the settings for UT Southwestern Medical School's grant-funded community-based drug trials.

Nexus achieved Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation certification in 1995 and maintained it until 2006 when they became accredited by the Joint Commission (and continues to be) which is common for private centers, but rare in the nonprofit sector due to the high standards required to earn and maintain. In 2004 Nexus received a Woman of Influence Award for "outstanding influence in community service." In 2013 the Caron Foundation gave Nexus its Community Leadership Award. That same year the Association of Substance Abuse Providers awarded The Auxiliary of Nexus (formerly known as the Women's Auxiliary of Nexus) a Lone Star Award. In 2014 United Way of Metropolitan Dallas gave Nexus their "Heartbeat Award."

Becca also founded two fundraising events – The Auxiliary of Nexus Luncheon and A Night for Nexus.

"I will miss seeing former clients who come back to tell me how their lives have changed since coming to Nexus and seeing their before and after photos" says Becca. "In retirement, I look forward to spending more time with my grandchildren, swimming, studying Spanish and traveling".

After a four-month intensive search, Nexus announced the selection of **Heather Emmanuel Ormand** as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Nexus selected Heather after an extensive regional search led by a team of current Board Members. Nexus Recovery Center's Board Chair coordinated the search.

"Heather has a passion for community service and improving the lives of women and children, says Becca. "I have sincere confidence in her abilities and qualifications to assume my executive roles. Her proven leadership will help expand upon Nexus' programs to help even more women and adolescent girls seek the treatment they need, regardless of their ability to pay."

Heather previously served as Chief Operations Officer at Dallas Children's Advocacy Center (DCAC), where she oversaw Finance, Information Services, Human Resources, Education, and the Crimes Against Children Conference. She is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in the state of Texas and prior to joining DCAC she had over 12 years of experience in public accounting as a director with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP and specialized in providing assurance and business advisory.

"We are very excited to have Heather taking on the role of the CEO of Nexus Recovery Center," says Karen Rogers, Nexus Board President. "Heather brings to

the job an exceptional combination of energy, sensitivity, and proven leadership to the challenges of working with people in the social services sector. We expect Heather to not only continue Nexus' excellent programs, but to work with partners and funders to help expand Nexus Recovery Center's programs to help more people in need of substance abuse treatment".

The mission of Nexus has personal meaning to Heather as she has been in recovery for nearly a decade. She has been married to her husband, Jason, for nearly five years and lives in Rockwall. They have one daughter, Hannah (3) and one son, Levi (1). Heather said "I am so grateful and excited to jump into the work at Nexus. There is a sentence in the Big Book of AA that seems especially relevant today. 'Then you will know what it means to give of yourself that others may survive and rediscover life.' This is definitely beyond my wildest dreams – let's do this!"