Keystone Opportunity Center hires new director

By Freda Savana, Staff Writer  |  Oct 11, 2017  |  0

The Keystone Opportunity Center has hired Arlene E. Daily as its new executive director, the Souderton-based nonprofit announced.

Daily, who lives in Allentown, will replace E. Richard Akhele III, after his retirement in January.

Keystone’s board president, Lucy Sharp, said Daily was the unanimous choice to lead the social service agency, which works with those struggling with poverty, access to housing, food and education.

“During our search ... It was clear the future of Keystone depends on being able to engage multiple constituencies from our community to maintain our multiple programs. Because of her extensive and varied experience, Arlene is ready to accept this challenge,” said Sharp, in a statement.

Daily’s experience includes decades in the nonprofit world, where she’s served in leadership positions in disease-fighting charities, arts organizations and community centers in Pennsylvania and New York City, the opportunity center said. She is skilled in leading advocacy and lobbying efforts at state and federal levels, and has both national and international experience. Before she joined Keystone, Daily was executive director of Mayfair Inc., where she successfully led the organization out of debt.

“The work Keystone Opportunity Center does is not just vital to our community — it is groundbreaking,” said Daily. “There are amazing advancements in battling homelessness which the housing team at Keystone was taking the lead in implementing long before they became the norm in other agencies.”

Daily said she’s inspired by Keystone’s team and is looking forward to joining the center and its efforts “stemming the trauma created by poverty, helping people reach self-sufficiency and building a stronger community”.

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