

After 20 Years of Serving DFW Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care, Transition Resource Action Center Prepares for its Next Chapter as an Independent Non-Profit Organization

The Long-Time CitySquare Program looks forward to Stepping Into Independence, with CitySquare as a Fierce Advocate and Collaborator

DALLAS/FORT WORTH, Texas – CitySquare and the Transition Resource Action Center (TRAC), a transformative program dedicated to supporting North Texas youth transitioning out of foster care, are pleased to jointly announce TRAC’s official IRS 501(c)(3) designation, marking its evolution from a CitySquare program to a separate, independent nonprofit organization.

CitySquare's dedication to TRAC's success remains unwavering; it will stand alongside TRAC, lending support and expertise throughout the transition process. Both organizations assure supporters and youth that all services will continue seamlessly during the transition.

This transformation into an independent entity is a testament to TRAC's proven success and impact since 2003 across 19 North Texas counties, under the CitySquare umbrella. By obtaining its own nonprofit status, the youth service organization will gain the autonomy and flexibility needed to expand its reach, deepen community ties, and provide enhanced support to community youth facing homelessness. At the same time, CitySquare can focus on adult neighbors and families needing supportive services in Dallas. This strategic move exemplifies the two organizations' shared vision, which aims to maximize effectiveness by allowing each one to focus on its core competencies. This action ensures the stability and longevity of both nonprofits and can be an aspirational model for other organizations seeking to strengthen their impact.

"We are thrilled to support TRAC's evolution into an independent organization," expressed **Mandy Shreve, interim CEO of CitySquare**, "The real story here is the collaborative effort both our organizations are making to become the most effective, successful service providers we can be within our key areas of focus. As TRAC emerges to stand on its own, I believe this can be a powerful evolution and serve as an example for other nonprofits seeking to focus on what they do best."

As TRAC embarks on its journey as an independent organization, CitySquare will continue to provide vital support, including backend office support,

administrative oversight, and fiscal sponsorship. This collaborative approach ensures a smooth and seamless transition, allowing TRAC to focus on empowering youth to self-sufficiency.

According to the National Foster Youth Institute, **more than 23,000 children age out of the US foster care system each year, and a staggering 20% of these young people instantly face homelessness.** Over the past 20 years, TRAC has played a pivotal role in supporting these youth, offering a lifeline of opportunity to those who would otherwise be at risk of homelessness and housing instability throughout the DFW area. TRAC's impact and success stories are profound. Its programming serves a vital role in ensuring nearly 1200 youth per year are on track to a living wage, have access to safe stable affordable housing, and are immediately connected to trauma-informed staff who work tirelessly to assist young people on their journey to becoming self-sufficient. TRAC provides the largest number of housing supports to young adults facing homelessness and housing insecurity across the 19-county North Texas area.

"Our dedicated Youth Caseworkers, whom we call Coaches, embark on the journey to independent living with these young people before they depart from foster care. We prioritize building genuine, mentoring friendships and a support system to guide our emerging young adults through the daunting task of being on their own. These services aren't just important for the youth we assist, but essential in creating an overall strong and vibrant community," expressed **Evy Kay Washburne, Chairperson of the newly established TRAC Board of Directors.**

She continued, "This next chapter for TRAC represents a transformative step forward for our team. As we navigate the transition, we are truly grateful for the ongoing collaboration and support from CitySquare. We are confident TRAC will emerge a robust, independent organization capable of making an even more significant difference in the lives of our community's most vulnerable youth as they transition from substitute care to independent adulthood."

The regional search for an Executive Director for TRAC is currently underway.

With CitySquare's realignment of services, its real-estate partner, CitySquare Housing (which has always been a separate but related organization) has now returned to its original name, **Central Dallas Community Development Corporation (CDCDC).**

CDCDC will continue ownership of housing units, including The Cottages at Hickory Crossing and CityWalk @ Akard, while CitySquare will continue providing Case Management Services at the Cottages.

Both organizations are grateful for the continued partnership, as CitySquare case managers have built meaningful relationships and a strong sense of kinship with neighbors living in these housing units. About the renaming, Mandy Shreve said, “This clarifies for the public who oversees the properties, but it is not a substantial change for either organization. We have always known these developments are in good hands, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with CDCDC.”

Shreve continued, “While the transitions with TRAC and CDCDC have been in process for months, we are happy to share the news externally because it emphasizes our focus on our three areas of expertise: housing services, food security, and health equity. This is especially important to us as we welcome our newly appointed **CEO, Annam Manthiram**, who will begin on August 22, 2023.” Shreve closed by saying, “We are proud of the impact CitySquare has had on the fight against poverty for the last 35 years, and we will continue to be here as long as Dallas needs us.”

For more information about CitySquare or to set up an interview with CitySquare leadership, please contact Ivy Lopez at ivy@hollandcollective.co.

ABOUT Transition Resource Action Center (TRAC)

TRAC serves young adults ages 18-24 who are experiencing homelessness in Dallas and Fort Worth. Services offered include crisis intervention, case management, education and employment assistance, and housing solutions. For more information, visit TRAConline.org.

ABOUT CITY SQUARE:

CitySquare is an 18-million-dollar nonprofit in its 35th year of fighting poverty, offering solutions in three areas of expertise: housing services, food security, and health equity. We touch the lives of more than 55,000 people each year.

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