



ALIVE, Inc. Announces Denise DeCou As Executive Director

St. Louis -- The Board of Directors of ALIVE (Alternatives to Living In Violent Environments) announces that Denise DeCou has joined the St. Louis-based nonprofit as Executive Director. DeCou assumed her position on January 9, 2012, and succeeds longtime Executive Director Erin Ercoline who recently relocated to Texas to be closer to family.

Before joining ALIVE, DeCou was the Executive Director for the National Conference for Community and Justice of Metropolitan St. Louis (NCCJSTL), where she enhanced programming, generated a facilitator cadre of anti-oppression trainers, developed new partnerships and increased donor support.

In announcing DeCou as Executive Director, ALIVE Board President Jeff Tank said, "We are very pleased to welcome Denise to ALIVE and are looking forward to her lending her experience and obvious passion to our agency. Her extensive non-profit background and prior management experience will help us strengthen an already very strong organization. As we move toward ALIVE's 30th anniversary, we see Denise writing the next exciting chapter in our history."

ALIVE has served victims of domestic violence since its founding in 1983. With offices in St. Louis and Franklin Counties, ALIVE provides emergency shelter and counseling for adults and children. The not-for-profit agency also operates a 24-hour crisis hotline and court advocacy, case management, and community education programs, as well as the Anti-Violence Advocacy Project, which provides services to the LGBT community.

DeCou has nearly 25 years of experience in non-for-profit organizational development, curriculum design and youth programming. She has worked for the Anti-Defamation League; the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council; the United Way of Greater St. Louis; and Girls, Inc. She currently holds several volunteer leadership roles, including that of Board Member for ROW (Redevelopment Opportunities for Women).

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