



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Gabriel's Angels Welcomes Melissa Steimer as Chief Executive Officer

Valley Nonprofit Executive Brings Passion, Leadership and Community Involvement to Growing Arizona Nonprofit



PHOENIX – [Gabriel's Angels](http://GabrielsAngels.org) is proud to announce that Melissa Steimer has been appointed the Chief Executive Officer. Steimer, most recently the Chief Development Officer of the Arizona Animal Welfare League (AAWL) brings extensive experience in nonprofit executive leadership, fundraising and strategic planning to support organization growth.

"This is an important and exciting time for this amazing 20-year-old nonprofit organization that serves so many vulnerable children in our State," Steimer said.

"The legacy, that started with one pet therapy team is to be admired and I look forward to leading Gabriel's Angels in its next phase of growth to meet the growing needs of at-risk children across the State of Arizona."

Steimer, started her nonprofit career almost 23 years ago when she served in a development role for an Iowa nonprofit that served at-risk youth with specialized treatment for emotional, behavioral, and psychiatric needs. She went on to serve in numerous executive leadership roles for both local and national animal welfare organizations and prior to AAWL, was in an executive leadership role with one of Gabriel's Angels longstanding partners, UMOM New Day Centers.

Steimer holds a bachelor's degree from Creighton University and Master of Public Administration from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She is a Valley Leadership Alumni – Class 40 and is a member, and recently sat on the Board, of the Association of Fundraising Professionals – Greater Arizona Chapter.

The human-animal bond has been a personal and professional passion that drives Steimer to collaborate with more partners, across the state, who will benefit with pet therapy to inspire confidence, compassion, and best behaviors in children. Gabriel's Angels mission is more important than ever as so many kids have been challenged in this past year with the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The pet therapy teams have worked through many challenges in this past year while still serving the needs of kids in our State," Steimer said. "By focusing on growing our pet therapy teams to provide the programming that so many organizations have reached out to receive our help, I hope to be able to realize Gabriel's Angels vision of doubling the number of children served before we reach the next 20 years."

"We are thrilled to welcome Melissa to the organization in its top leadership role," said Patty Nelson, Gabriel's Angels, Board Chair. "At-risk youth all around the state will benefit from her passion and leadership."

To learn more about Gabriel's Angels, follow on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GabrielsAngels), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/GabrielsAngels), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/GabrielsAngels) or visit GabrielsAngels.org.



About Gabriel's Angels

Gabriel's Angels is a 501 (3)C nonprofit organization whose mission is to inspire confidence, compassion, and best behavior in at-risk children through pet therapy. Registered Pet Therapy Teams, comprised of owners and their pets, visit facilities serving abused, neglected, and at-risk children in the Phoenix, Tucson, and Prescott areas. The therapy visits provide children with unconditional love and teach core social behaviors. For more information about the organization or becoming a Therapy Team or volunteer, please call 602-266-0875 or visit www.GabrielsAngels.org

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