



# Foothill Unity Center, Inc.

HELPING PEOPLE. CHANGING LIVES.

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*A California Nonprofit Corporation, serving the San Gabriel Valley Foothill communities of: Altadena, Arcadia, Azusa, Baldwin Park, Bradbury, Duarte, Irwindale, Monrovia, Pasadena, Sierra Madre.*

191 N. Oak Ave.  
Pasadena, CA 91107

Raina Martinez, Chief Development Officer  
626-358-3486 x205

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** **JANUARY 17, 2022**

### **FOOTHILL UNITY CENTER APPOINTS MS. KEISHA BOWEN and Dr. RYAN SMITH, Ed.D TO THEIR 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTOR ROSTER.**

Monrovia, CA.

Foothill Unity Center has added Ms. Keisha Carter-Bowen and Dr. Ryan Smith, Ed.D to their Board of Directors effective December 1, 2021. Ms. Bowen was born and raised in the Duarte-Monrovia area, and owns Simply Divine Salon Barbershop and Apprenticeship Training Center. Having worked in the beauty industry for over 25 years, Ms. Bowen opened her own salon in 1993, shortly after completing beauty school training. Ms. Bowen works with the California Board of Barbering and Cosmetology to assist apprentice students to get licensed, as well as to provide advanced education in micro-blading, skin care and haircutting. She has a desire to not only educate but to also mentor, coach and guide others to be successful in the beauty industry.

Ms. Bowen is able to give back to persons in her community who are in need. Annually, Ms. Bowen along with students from the Cosmetology Department at Citrus College provided volunteer services for Foothill Unity Center's Back to School event. Ms. Bowen also volunteers at the Fred Jordan Mission's Mother's Day Makeover.

Dr. Smith is the current Superintendent of Schools for the Monrovia Unified School district. Smith earned his doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Southern California. He also holds a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction as well as Educational Leadership from Chapman University and a bachelor's degree in Mathematics from California State University, San Marcos.

Dr. Smith joins Monrovia Unified after five years in the Paramount Unified School District, where he served as Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Educational Services and led the entire Educational Services division. During his time at Paramount, Smith oversaw a variety of key initiatives, including the development and implementation of the district's first strategic plan, the expansion of instructional technology to include a 1-1 Chromebook program for all district students, and the creation of the district's first new high school, Odyssey STEM Academy.

Foothill Unity Center was founded in 1980 as an emergency food pantry, operating out of a church closet in Monrovia, to assist the low-income, disadvantaged and underserved. In the 1990's, having outgrown the church closet and relocated multiple times, the organization landed at our previous site in Monrovia, slowly expanding our service area to nearby cities. In 2004, we opened our second site in Pasadena. In 2018, Foothill Unity Center moved into a

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significantly larger facility at 790 W. Chestnut in Monrovia, with the launch of its capital campaign two years earlier.

Foothill Unity Center's target population is the Foothills portion of SPA 3, which includes Altadena, Arcadia, Azusa, Baldwin Park, Bradbury, Duarte, Irwindale, Monrovia, Pasadena, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena and Temple City. In 2020, the organization served 15,650 unduplicated individuals with 288,023 services with our core programs (Food, Housing and Homeless, Health, Job Development and Crisis Case Management).

Foothill Unity Center looks forward to working with Ms. Bowen and Dr. Smith as new members of their Board of Directors.

For more information, please contact Raina Martinez at 626-358-3486 x205

Warmest Regards,

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tashera Taylor', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tashera Taylor  
Chief Executive Officer

*(No goods or services were provided in exchange for this donation.)*

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