

INTRODUCING THE SOLANUS CASEY CENTER'S NEW PROGRAM MANAGER, ADRIANA HENRY!

Last spring, as the coronavirus pandemic disrupted almost all facets of life, Deo Rodriguez came to the difficult decision to step down as program manager of the Solanus Casey Center, moving to Louisiana to be closer with family. Although she was with Solanus Casey for only a brief time, she had a tremendous impact on the guests and volunteers. As Solanus Casey re-opened, an old friend of the Center, Adriana Henry, stepped in as interim director, and has since been promoted to full-time program manager. Adriana took a few moments recently to answer a few questions so that the St. James Cathedral community could get to know her.

Why did you want to be here at SCC?

I've been part of the Catholic Community Services' (CCS) staff for five and a half years. I've been covering the Center as a program manager when other program managers would go out of town, so I'm very familiar with the program. I've enjoyed the clients and the volunteers over the years. I have great respect for what they do. My background is in banking and finance. This is very rewarding especially with what is going on right now in 2020. I know that we are going to need a lot of our social services programs in the very near future.



In your eyes, what makes the Solanus Casey Center special?

Definitely the people that volunteer here and work here. Most definitely our clients who come from diverse backgrounds.

I really enjoy the listening part of the job and connecting with folks who just need that extra minute or two to have that human connection that someone cares, and someone's listening. And the Center has that every day.

I think just the fact that we help people with all kinds of situations, not just one or two or three things. On top of being a referral center, we're problem solvers. I think being able to help folks progress, whatever that looks like, wherever they're at, and meeting them wherever they're at, is why I look forward to coming to work every day.

What is SCC able to do during this pandemic?

We are not open for walk-ins but we're doing business over the phone. We can do Washington state ID and driver license renewals, and order birth certificates for folks. We're still doing the gas vouchers, as well as eyeglass vouchers. The Orca bus lottery is on hold until further notice, even though Metro will begin charging in October. We don't have our volunteers back yet but

hopefully in time that will change and we will be able to welcome our volunteers back to help. I'm doing a little bit of appointments in person if I can set those up with people.

What are your hopes for the Solanus Casey Center?

I think right now the focus is on making people feel safe and comfortable and heard and respected. My vision for Solanus Casey is a rebirth of the referral center that has a little more life, to make it more welcoming and to make the most of the three hours each day that we're open.

At the end of the day, the Church is always here, and people will always be in need. There are always needs and so I think that as things roll out and as things go back to normal, we can grow with what the needs of our community are.