Meet Our New President/CEO
Christie W. Vance

Steve McAlilly retired on March 1, 2025 and Christie Vance was named his successor. She is just the third person to lead the organization in 63 years!

After 26 years with Methodist Senior Services (MSS), Christie Vance is stepping into the CEO role. Vance's transition is a testament to the organization's stability and strength as she leads it into serving the next generation of Mississippi's Elders.

A Career Built on Passion and Purpose

Vance began her career in public accounting where she was introduced to MSS as part of the audit team. Growing up with grandparents who could have benefited from affordable senior housing, she was drawn to the organization's work.

"I never dreamed of working in senior living, but once I saw the impact of what MSS was doing, I knew this was where I wanted to be," Vance said.

From her first role as Director of Accounting in 1999, Vance quickly proved adept at navigating challenges. One of her earliest projects was transitioning MSS to Y2K-compliant financial software, requiring skill and ingenuity. She was also instrumental in obtaining the Medicare and Medicaid certifications for the Martha Coker Green House® Homes in Yazoo City. Over the years, Vance took on increasing responsibilities, serving as CFO and COO before moving into the CEO role.

Leading Through Change

Vance's leadership was tested when she took over as COO in March 2020, just as the COVID-19 pandemic began reshaping the senior living industry. By navigating staffing challenges, restructuring sales and marketing efforts, and strengthening community relationships, she helped MSS emerge stronger than before.

Under her leadership, MSS's census climbed from 83.3% pre-pandemic to approximately 94% today.

Her approach? A people-first mindset.

"Senior living isn't just a job; it's a calling," Vance said. "You have to be truly committed to serving elders and the teams who care for them."

Vision for the Future

As she steps into the CEO role, Vance is focused on balancing innovation with the operational excellence for which MSS is known. She recognizes the evolving needs of the next generation of seniors and emphasizes the importance of adaptability.

"We're at a turning point. The baby boomers are changing expectations for senior living. They want personalized services, but at an affordable price. Our challenge is figuring out how to meet those needs sustainably," she says.

Vance is also passionate about leadership development, promoting programs that empower employees at all levels. That includes the Beth and Henry Brevard Celebration of Leadership Academy MSS launched in 2019. Modeled after LeadingAge's national leadership program, Vance believes this initiative will shape MSS' future by investing in emerging leaders.

"It's been phenomenal because it's put care partners who are the essential foundation of the team at a table they wouldn't necessarily be at otherwise. It brings so much joy to watch the participants start to open up and think about bigger possibilities."

A Leader with Heart

Beyond her professional life, Vance is deeply rooted in her family and community. She and her husband, Cory, have been married for nearly 30 years and have two daughters. A proud supporter of all things Ole Miss, she's also active on her local school board and church finance committee and has spent the past decade helping to run the concession stand at her daughters' high school softball games.

Vance's personal journey, including the loss of a child, has reinforced her belief in the importance of community and support.

"The people here have been with me through life's highs and lows. That's what makes MSS special - it's truly a family."

With her hands-on experience and forward-thinking approach, Vance is well-positioned to lead MSS into a new era built on dedication, innovation, and a steadfast commitment to those she serves. Under her leadership, MSS is poised to continue its legacy of excellence and shape the future of senior living in ways that will benefit future generations.

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