



# News Media Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **GRACIE SIMENDINGER NAMED LEADERSHIP JACKSONVILLE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

JACKSONVILLE, FL (June 27, 2022) – Leadership Jacksonville announces Gracie Simendinger has been named Chief Executive Officer for the organization. Simendinger is currently the Director of Development at the Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM). She will take over the CEO position in August, succeeding Jill Langford Dame who announced her retirement in March. Dame has served in the role since 2013.

Leadership Jacksonville Board President, Kathy Miller, shared, “We are excited to have Gracie join the LJ team. Her local development experience and enthusiasm will be critical in helping us continue to execute our mission.”

“I am deeply invested in the future success of our city. I believe fully in our ability to capitalize on the positive momentum by continuing to develop Leadership Jacksonville as a venue for strengthening our community leadership. Leadership Jacksonville is an incredible catalyst for developing the inclusive, vibrant Jacksonville that we can see on the horizon. I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to that vision,” shared Simendinger.

Simendinger’s experience includes team management, fundraising, public affairs and marketing, organizational effectiveness, program and partnership development and change management. “I’ve worked within nonprofits both large and small, and business-oriented and philanthropic leadership positions with well-known institutions. I take great pride in serving the Jacksonville community and have a track record of volunteer leadership experience, which has contributed to my strong network and positive reputation,” she shared. Simendinger is the President of the JAX Chamber Downtown Council, at-large member of the Women’s Giving Alliance steering committee and has served in various leadership roles with local organizations. She has a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from Florida State University with minors in Spanish and Hispanic Marketing Communications and a Master of Education from Jacksonville University.

Leadership Jacksonville was established in 1976 as a vehicle to stimulate growth of leadership in the Northeast Florida community. The mission of Leadership Jacksonville is to educate, connect and inspire diverse leaders to build and strengthen their communities. Leadership Jacksonville currently has four major programs: Leadership Jacksonville; New Leadership Summit; Leadership Jacksonville Next Generation and Youth Leadership Jacksonville.

### **Media:**

1. Leadership Jacksonville logo
2. Gracie Simendinger, CEO

