



TransNewYork
Helping others find and express their gender identity

IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

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TransNewYork appoints Kelvin O. Howell Jr. as the organization's first Deputy Executive Director & Chief of Staff

Friday, December 18, 2020

QUEENS, NEW YORK – Today TransNewYork's Founder, Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer Dr. Gennifer Herley, PhD announced Kelvin O. Howell Jr. as the organization's first Deputy Executive Director & Chief of Staff. Howell Jr. has served the human and social services field for over 10+ years in various roles and organizations and currently serving the LGBTQIA+ community of Queens as the Director of Operations of Queens Pride.

"Kelvin O. Howell Jr. has a proven track record of successfully turning ideas into accomplishments and making the power of belief become real," said **Founder, Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer Dr. Gennifer Herley, PhD.** "I am thrilled that they have agreed to come on board and help me bring my vision to reality. With Kelvin onboard and leading our team, TransNewYork is in an even stronger position to fulfill our mission."

"Transgender, Gender Non-conforming, and Non-binary individuals of the City of New York and surrounding Metropolitan area deserve excellence, ethical, professional, human and social services grounded in empowerment with a holistic approach," said **Kelvin O. Howell Jr.** "I'm honored to bring my deep experience of overcoming, survival, lived experience, and professional expertise to this newly created role and TransNewYork. I look forward to working closely with Dr. Herley and her staff to enhancing TransNewYork's mission and implementing creative, useful, innovative, and sustainable programs, services, and policies and procedures to improve the lives of my Transgender, Gender Non-conforming, and Non-binary sisters and brothers here in the city."

Since Howell Jr.'s appointment, they have developed and implemented **The Sisters Helping Sisters Initiative (S.H.S.I.)** which is a COVID-19 initiative to support Transgender, Gender Nonconforming, and Non-binary sisters in the County of Queens, and the surrounding Metropolitan area. S.H.S.I. is being some immediate changes around food inequality for Transgender, Gender Nonconforming, and Non-binary sisters in the County of Queens, and the surrounding Metropolitan area. This initiative packs boxes of 30 to 40 pounds of fresh produce, other groceries items, hygiene products, and PPE weekly. As of date, we have served 100 Transgender, Gender Nonconforming, and Non-binary individuals weekly, providing 225 meals weekly and packing 4,000 pounds of food weekly.

They are currently in global negotiations with other governments, agencies, and organizations to advance the rights and needs of Transgender, Gender Nonconforming, and Non-binary individuals. Furthermore, they used their grassroots organizing skills to assemble some of the Transgender, Gender Nonconforming, and Non-binary community's top professionals, activist, advocates, and leaders for this powerful groundbreaking **2020 Transgender Day of Reembrace Celebration** which was held on Friday, November 20th, 2020 at 6:30 pm in New York City's legendary village via the iconic Christopher Street pier.

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TransNewYork' mission is to educate, empower, and enhance the lives of Transgender, Gender Non-conforming, and Non-binary Individuals globally through advocacy, community visibility, human and social services, advance knowledge, and lifelong learning development of self.

TransNewYork' seeks to be acknowledged as the organization of choice for Transgender, Gender non-conforming, and Non-binary communities in the City of New York and the surrounding Metropolitan area.

TransNewYork' core values speak to the butterfly in our logo. The butterfly represents how a caterpillar that comes out of a tiny egg, metamorphose into a butterfly with magnificently artistic designs on its wings. We use the butterfly and its life cycle as a universal symbol to empower our Transgender, Gender Non-conforming, and Non-binary sisters, and brothers in/on their journey of transitioning into wholeness, oneness, and authenticity.

** Note: The time spent at each of the stages can vary.*