



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Unique People Services Expands its Executive Team

BRONX, NEW YORK, January 17, 2017 – Unique People Services (UPS), a nonprofit 501(c) 3 Better Business Bureau (BBB) Accredited Charity Seal Holder serving individuals with challenging and special needs, has appointed Diane Louard-Michel as its new Senior Director of Real Estate & Development. She began working at the agency on January 9th and reports to Executive Director Yvette Brissett-Andre.

In her new role, Ms. Louard-Michel is responsible for acquisition and development coordination and the management of UPS' supportive housing projects, including [Lynn's Place](#), the agency's first affordable housing development opening later this year. Additional responsibilities include overseeing UPS' Property Management functions; evaluating, preparing and maintaining preliminary development, operating and service budgets; hiring and directing architects, contractors, attorneys and consultants. Ms. Louard-Michel also leads a community engagement strategy to identify potential impacts and build relationships, as she explores new and creative funding scenarios for real estate projects. She works collaboratively with UPS staff, Board of Directors, external consultants, community stakeholders and development partners.

Ms. Louard-Michel brings nearly three decades of experience providing innovative solutions and growth strategies to affordable housing and community development needs. Prior to joining UPS, Ms. Louard-Michel led a distinguished 20-year career at Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) where she executed complex service modeling and large-scale housing finance projects. She was also the lead advisor on program modeling for the New York/New York III Agreement, a \$1 billion city/state initiative to finance approximately 10,000 supportive housing units for underserved populations. Her commitment to program innovation and reducing homelessness spanned multiple states, including the opening of a CSH Chicago start-up that helped to expand supportive housing production and Chicago nonprofit industry growth.

From 2011-2013, Ms. Louard-Michel was an Inaugural Appointee in the Governor's NYS Medicaid Redesign Affordable Housing Workgroup, as well an Elected Member-At-Large for the NYC Coalition for the Continuum of Care. She holds a B.A. in Architecture from Yale College, an M.S. in Historic Preservation (Urban Planning) from Columbia University and serves on the Board of many nonprofit organizations across the New York area.

“We’re thrilled to have Diane on our team,” said UPS Executive Director Yvette Brissett-Andre. “Her extraordinary expertise will be instrumental in guiding our supportive housing programs, while helping to lead us on our newest journey into affordable housing production. Diane’s drive, passion and commitment mirror our own vision and mission, and together, we look forward to providing safe havens and brighter futures for many more New Yorkers in need.”

About Unique People Services

Founded in 1991, Unique People Services, Inc. (UPS) is a New York-based nonprofit 501(c) 3 that provides supportive housing and medical case management services to HIV/AIDS individuals, families living with mental health challenges, and developmental disabilities. Now in the year of celebrating its 26th Anniversary, Unique People Services, a BBB Accredited Charity Seal Holder, operates twenty-seven (27) supportive housing programs in the Bronx, Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and Westchester County.

More than 500 New Yorkers call UPS’ home, living in well-furnished residences where they receive meals and support services to help them achieve the highest possible levels of independent living and community inclusion. The transitional, long-term and permanent housing UPS provides has also become a safe haven for many formerly homeless individuals.

With the opening of Lynn’s Place, the agency’s first affordable housing initiative, in September 2017, UPS will help transform more lives, deepening its mission of *Understanding People, Providing Homes, and Serving Communities*. For more information about Unique People Services, visit <http://www.uniquepeopleservices.org/>.