



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Advancing Macomb Welcomes WHEAT Founder Melvenna Fant-Jones to Board of Directors

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. (Oct. 15, 2026) – [Advancing Macomb](#), a 501c3 organization that convenes resources to solve community challenges and enrich the lives of Macomb County residents, has appointed Melvenna Fant-Jones, founder and executive director of Women Healing Eternally and Transforming (WHEAT INC), to its board of directors.

Fant-Jones will serve a three-year term, bringing extensive experience in nonprofit leadership, victim advocacy and community development to the board.

Fant-Jones, a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault and homelessness, founded WHEAT in 2008 to address the lack of trauma-informed wraparound services for survivors and low-income families. Based in St. Clair Shores, WHEAT serves individuals and families throughout Macomb County and Southeast Michigan who are affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and housing instability.

Under her leadership, WHEAT has served more than 10,000 individuals through programs focused on healing, legal advocacy, housing stability and long-term empowerment.

Fant-Jones is a nationally recognized, award-winning advocate and certified trauma expert with more than 19 years of experience in legal and nonprofit leadership. She holds a Master of Arts in human services – trauma and crisis counseling and a Bachelor of Science in legal studies. She is actively involved in several regional and statewide coalitions focused on housing stability, victim advocacy and community development. She is also a licensed minister.

"We're thrilled to welcome Melvenna to Advancing Macomb's board of directors," said Phil Gilchrist, executive director of Advancing Macomb. "Her experience addressing the needs of vulnerable individuals in our community brings a valuable perspective to the board that will help guide our work as we continue to strengthen the nonprofit sector."

"I'm honored to join the Advancing Macomb Board and contribute alongside leaders working to strengthen our community," said Fant-Jones. "Through my work with WHEAT, I see how access to safety, support and opportunity can make a lasting difference for individuals and families. I look forward to bringing that survivor-centered perspective to the board's work."



About Advancing Macomb

Advancing Macomb is a 501c3 that convenes resources to solve community challenges and enrich the lives of Macomb County residents. The organization provides the philanthropic model and leadership needed to cement partnerships between the nonprofit, public and private sectors, identify and attract resources to fund major projects and programs, and increase Macomb County visibility. For more information about Advancing Macomb, visit advancingmacomb.com.

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