



Sr. Nancy Downing, CND is the Executive Director of Covenant House New York and a religious sister in the Congregation of Notre Dame. She is a devoted and mission-focused advocate for homeless and trafficked youth.

Sr. Nancy joined Covenant House New York in 2007 to provide legal assistance to homeless and trafficked youth, and soon began serving as the Director of Legal Services and Advocacy. In 2015, she assumed the additional responsibilities of serving as General Counsel to both Covenant House New York and Covenant House International. In December 2016 she was appointed the Executive Director of Covenant House New York.

Prior to joining Covenant House, Sr. Nancy served as the executive director of both the Maura Clarke-Ita Ford Center in Brooklyn where she oversaw all aspects of an immigrant women's center, and the Connecticut Fair Housing Center in Hartford. She also served as a staff attorney at the New York Legal Assistance Group and legal services coordinator at STEPS to End Family Violence in New York. In her early career Sr. Nancy worked for a major insurance company overseeing complex litigation involving civil & constitutional rights violations, serious personal injury, and other matters.

She obtained her undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Southern Maine, and her law degree from Western New England College. She is licensed to practice law in New York and Connecticut.



Dr. Aleizoria Redd joined the Covenant House team as the Executive Director in March 2018 and comes with 30+ years of experience in the field of social work. Previously, Dr. Redd served as the Vice President of Placement Services at CHRIS 180, overseeing the organization's therapeutic group homes, street outreach, community housing, permanent supportive housing, transitional and independent living programs, drop in center, and related supportive services. Before her time at CHRIS 180, Dr. Redd served children and families while employed at Clark Atlanta University, Lutheran Services of Georgia, Universal Health Systems, ROOTS Adoption

Agency, Devereux, and while in private practice. She has served various populations as a direct service provider, clinician, clinical supervisor, advocate, advisor, administrator, professor, and executive leader.

Dr. Redd earned a BA in Psychology from the University of Memphis, an MSW and PhD in Social Work Policy Planning Administration and Social Science with a cognate in Public Administration from Clark Atlanta University. She has been continuously licensed as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker since 2000. Her areas of concentration include: social and child welfare policy; commercial sexual exploitation of children; secondary trauma of social workers; refugee and immigration; racial identity; youth homelessness; and military families.

Throughout Dr. Redd's career, she has offered herself tirelessly, using her business and academic expertise to create, manage, and ensure revenue for social service programs, scale projects, and seize opportunities to formulate strategies and strategic partnerships to bring safety, security, resources, unconditional love, and support to the most vulnerable populations.

Nelson Mandela profoundly stated, "Safety and security don't just happen, they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear." Mandela's words reflect Dr. Redd's beliefs, and for this reason, she is a servant leader and social worker dedicating her life and career to ensure the safety, well-being, development, and stability of children and their families.



Benaiah E. Hoyt was born in Worcester, MA in 1994 and raised in Northern New Hampshire. They left home due to unsafe and unaccepting circumstances, and came to New York City, where they spent the first year and a half in and out of shelters and on the streets.

A person living on the streets told Benaiah about Covenant House in 2014, where they found a place of acceptance. Benaiah participated in the Covenant House job readiness program, and found the music programs to be very therapeutic. Benaiah is a positive force in the lives of past and current Covenant House residents, and always takes the time to support our mission. Benaiah has overcome many obstacles and is now an administrative assistant at Goldman Sachs.