

Smith helms Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Alabama

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A veteran nonprofit leader has taken the helm of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Alabama.

Leisa Smith started this month as president and CEO of the nonprofit and succeeds Tom Cleckler, who retired after leading the organization for 38 years. The organization reported \$2.5 million in revenue for fiscal 2015, according to its most recent Form 990 filing.

Smith most recently was executive director of the Salvation Army Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Atlanta. She is a veteran of the Boys & Girls Club movement, having been with that organization for 30 years in various leading roles in multiple states.

“Leisa brings over 25 years of leadership in the BGC movement and is joining us after serving in a similar capacity in Atlanta,” said board chairwoman Barbara Thompson. “She is a dedicated 20-plus year Rotarian and her whole life has been dedicated to service above self. We have no doubt she will work tirelessly for the betterment of Birmingham and the children of our metro area.”

Smith started full-time club work in Louisville, Ky., in 1990 as a program director. In 1993, she was education director, club director and then director of operations for the Hobe Sound, Fla., club. By 2000, she became an executive director in Vero Beach, Fla., and opened the first club in Indian River County. She later became executive director of the Coastal Carolina club and expanded its juvenile day program.

Smith earned a bachelor's degree in general studies from Indiana University South East and a master's degree in public administration from Nova South Eastern University. She also has earned several awards from club service, and is highly active in community service through civic clubs like Rotary and Business Network International. "Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Alabama has been dedicated to transforming children's lives for over 116 years, it is my honor and privilege to serve as the new CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Alabama," Smith said.