



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **The Retreat Proudly Welcomes Denise Shirley to the Board of Directors**

EAST HAMPTON, NY — June 12, 2026 — The Retreat is proud to welcome Denise Shirley to its Board of Directors. A seasoned financial professional and lifelong community advocate, Ms. Shirley brings a rare combination of expertise and lived commitment to social justice that will deepen The Retreat's capacity to serve survivors of intimate partner abuse across Long Island.

Ms. Shirley's career spans four decades as Comptroller and Partner at Midway Investors LLC and Merlon Management Corp., two Manhattan-based real estate development and investment firms. Her volunteer work reflects a long personal history of showing up for vulnerable communities — from assisting Guatemalan refugees through The Corn Maya Project in Indiantown, Florida, to serving as Project Coordinator for The Women's Encampment for a Future of Peace & Justice in Romulus, New York, and volunteering at the Xaviar Soup Kitchen in Manhattan.

In addition, Ms. Shirley has served and shared her financial expertise on numerous NYC Coop Boards and The Board of Directors at Grace Church School, where her two adult children attended grade school. A decades-long member of both Quail Hill Farm and Sportime Amagansett, Ms. Shirley splits her time between Springs in East Hampton and Manhattan.

“I am honored to serve on The Board of The Retreat, an organization that holds a special place in my heart. It is my deepest desire to positively impact the lives of those individuals who have experienced or are experiencing intimate partner abuse, and to raise awareness of its prevalence in our society and the need to do more to prevent it,” said Ms. Shirley. “The Retreat is an extraordinary resource serving our Long Island community, representing the commitment and fellowship of so many good and dedicated people. It is my privilege to help advance the goals of The Retreat’s critical mission.”

“We're thrilled to welcome Denise to our Board of Directors,” said Cate Carbonaro, Executive Director of The Retreat. “Her deep expertise in housing and finance, paired with a lifelong commitment to service, will directly advance our work to secure safe, stable housing for survivors across Long Island.”



Ms. Shirley will join existing board members Francesca L. Odell, Co-President; Claudia Pilato, Co-President; Ellie Kurrus, Vice President, VP Development; Michael Goldstein, Treasurer; Markie Hancock; Ayse Manyas Kenmore; Nicole Shomer; Ani Antreasyan; Kristen Erickson; Maria Crocitto; Irma Negron; Renee Turner, Esq.; Anne Kothari, and Ryland Hilbert.

To see the latest news coverage, press releases and updates highlighting The Retreat's programs, events and community impact, please visit <https://allagainstabuse.org/about-us/newsroom/2/>

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**About the Retreat:** The Retreat is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit serving all of Long Island. The Retreat creates safety, healing and hope for those affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking, while working every day to prevent and break the cycle of violence. If you or someone you know needs help, call The Retreat's 24-hour hotline at (631) 329-2200. For more information, visit [allagainstabuse.org](http://allagainstabuse.org) or follow @allagainstabuse on Instagram and Facebook.