

December 18, 2015

A Message from Christy Muse to HCA supporters, friends and family:

Change is on the horizon. I have a wonderful opportunity ahead of me, and that means new opportunities for HCA as well. Recognizing what HCA has become over the past ten years brings me joy beyond words.

In February, I will become the Director of External Relations for the Shield Ranch and lead their community engagement program. The Shield Ranch is a family-owned ranch and protected wildland located in southwest Travis County. This historic and ecologically significant property encompasses more than six miles of Barton Creek and more than six thousand acres of wide-open spaces and exemplary wildlife habitat.

Serving as the founding executive director of HCA has been an incredibly rewarding experience, mostly because of the very special people that give their time, energy and expertise to our mission. The volunteers, board and staff are some of the most heartfelt, intelligent and compassionate people I have ever known. The range of expertise is inspiring—the mix of rural landowners with urban environmentalists, poets and artists, scientists, writers, developers, policy makers and naturalists—all sharing a passion for the long-term health of this special region. I feel very blessed and will be forever grateful for this experience.

After 10 years, I believe the time is right for me and for HCA to change and evolve. HCA is well-positioned, well-respected and moving on a very positive path with great support and momentum. Our current staff—Katherine, Charlie, Shannon and Sheila—make up a wonderful team. All have demonstrated their dedication and loyalty for our mission.

During this time of transition, I will remain focused on our mission, our strategic work plan, educational programs and dedicated staff. Katherine Romans has been promoted to a director level position, and she will play an important role for HCA providing leadership and continuity during this transition as HCA's Director of Landowner Outreach and Water Catchment Programs.

Dr. Leo Tynan of Fredericksburg will continue to serve as the President of HCA's Board of Directors through 2016. Judge Garry Merritt of Leakey, our current Vice-President, is slated to serve as President in 2017 and 2018. Our board is open to a range of possibilities in considering options for HCA's next executive director.

Leading HCA has always been more of a passion than a job. I hope to serve HCA as a volunteer leader in the months and years ahead. There is no end of things to do to care for this great region, and I plan on remaining an active participant. My role with HCA is shifting, but not ending. Please feel free to call or email me directly if you have questions or just want to share your thoughts.

Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart for your kindness and support along my life's journey.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christy Muse". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christy" being more prominent than the last name "Muse".

Christy Muse