Media Contact: Kelly Ferrara Bayne
Kelly@StratCommRx.com, (314) 221-2251

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 27, 2026

Nurses for Newborns Names Andrea Johnson-Lee as Next Chief Executive Officer

Third CEO in organization's 35-year history brings more than 30 years of healthcare, nonprofit, and community leadership experience

ST. LOUIS, MO (October 27, 2026) — Nurses for Newborns has named Andrea Johnson-Lee as its next Chief Executive Officer, marking a significant leadership milestone for the 35-year-old nonprofit organization. Johnson-Lee, who brings more than three decades of experience leading healthcare, nonprofit, and community-based organizations, will become only the third CEO in Nurses for Newborns' history.



Johnson-Lee succeeds Melinda Monroe, who is retiring after serving as the organization's CEO for the past 18 years. Johnson-Lee will join Nurses for Newborns on November 2 and officially assume leadership on November 9, 2026.

"Andrea brings an exceptional combination of healthcare experience, strategic leadership, and a deep understanding of the communities we serve," said Shanna Wiechel, President of the Nurses for Newborns Board of Directors. "Throughout her career, she has demonstrated the ability to strengthen organizations, build meaningful partnerships, and expand services to reach more people. We believe she is the right leader to guide Nurses for Newborns into its next chapter."

Johnson-Lee's career spans more than 30 years in healthcare administration, nonprofit leadership, workforce development, and community engagement, with deep roots in the St. Louis region.

A career highlight that aligns with the Nurses for Newborns mission is Johnson-Lee’s experience includes developing programs to improve maternal and infant healthcare access. At a local hospital system, she identified barriers that led high-risk obstetric patients to seek care outside their community and helped develop targeted perinatal services that increased the retention of high-risk pregnancies within the community by 40%. “Having the opportunity to again work with expectant and new parents and support our most fragile neighbors is meaningful work and I am

eager to grow, learn, and lead among the great team at Nurses for Newborns," added Johnson-Lee when asked about the new role.

More recently, Johnson-Lee served in regional and national leadership roles with INROADS, a nonprofit focused on developing and advancing diverse young talent. As National Director of its

College Links Program, she helped expand the program from 4 to 18 cities over four years, increasing student enrollment more than twelvefold. Her work included building the staffing, systems, and partnerships needed to support sustainable growth across multiple locations.

Johnson-Lee also brings extensive experience in fundraising, financial management, and organizational development. Her accomplishments include securing and renewing a $3 million corporate funding commitment, developing partnerships generating $350,000 annually, and managing multimillion-dollar budgets.

Since 2025, she has provided consulting services for the St. Louis Community Foundation and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri, including work developing career development curriculum.

"Only three CEOs in 35 years speaks to the extraordinary continuity of leadership at Nurses for Newborns," Wiechel said. "We are deeply grateful to Melinda Monroe for her dedication and contributions to this organization. Andrea's appointment builds on that strong foundation and positions us to explore new opportunities to serve babies and families, strengthen community relationships, and grow our impact."

Johnson-Lee holds a Master of Health Administration and a Master of Arts in Human Resource Management from Washington University in St. Louis, as well as a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri–Columbia.

Her community leadership includes serving as Chapter President of The Links, Incorporated – Gateway (IL) Chapter, as well as board service with AMIkids St. Louis and the Provider Advisory Board of the St. Louis Regional Health Commission.

About Nurses for Newborns

Nurses for Newborns partners with expecting and new parents, babies, and families by providing compassionate nursing support, counseling, parenting education, and resources. All services are provided at no cost to the families we serve. Nurses for Newborns was founded in 1991, expanded to Tennessee in 2001, and in 2026 gained national accreditation through COA. Learn more: nursesfornewborns.org

Media Contact: Kelly Ferrara Bayne
Kelly@StratCommRx.com, (314) 221-2251