



**KIM
GARRETT**

OSU-OKC Paint This Town Orange
2018 HONOREE

SHARED PASSIONS WITH OSU-OKC: CRIME VICTIMS

SERVICES AND SUPPORT, PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING, CREATING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

MY FAVORITE QUOTE IS: 'THE ONLY THING NECESSARY FOR THE TRIUMPH OF EVIL IS FOR GOOD MEN TO DO NOTHING.' A LOT OF GOOD PEOPLE TURN THEIR HEADS FROM THE VIOLENCE AND ABUSE IN OUR COMMUNITY, AND THAT'S NOT ACCEPTABLE.

Kimberly Garrett has never turned away, instead, she has always leaned in.

As a third-grader, Kim organized a penny drive to save the manatees, and has been motivated by an innate desire to serve others ever since. Today, she is the founder and CEO of Palomar in Oklahoma City, an evidence-based national model that centralizes the vital services of 27 agencies into one building to alleviate obstacles to access resource and to help and empower victims of violence.

Kim's path to Palomar began when she was 19 years old working at a crisis call center in her hometown of Reno, Nevada. She became an advocate for sexual assault victims, often meeting them at the hospital to provide comfort and support in the middle of the night, and eventually become the program's coordinator. She ventured deeper into victim services by taking a job with the Reno Police Department where her passion for working with families and individuals in crisis was ignited even further. After earning a master's degree in social work and moving to Oklahoma City with her husband Bob in 2011, she was recruited by Oklahoma City Police Chief Bill Citty to start a victim services unit in the OKC Police Department because of her unique culmination of experience in social work and law enforcement.

While building the program, Kim quickly saw how disjointed services were for families in crisis, forcing them to travel to a variety of locations to receive the help they needed. This was more than an inconvenience, it was life threatening and greatly increased the chances they would return to the violence. Frustrated by the tangle of inconveniences facing victims, Kim founded Palomar, the nonprofit Oklahoma City Family Justice Center which has aided more than 4,000 people since opening its doors in 2017. Drawing on the resources of hundreds of professionals and volunteers, Palomar helps victims of violence in the OKC metro area by offering protection, hope and healing in a single location.

"I love all of our clients and appreciate their journeys and honor the struggles they have been through. We actually use a scientific measurement of hope in our children's programs that gauges belief in yourself, in others and in your future. When the founders of the movement of holistic victim care came in to tour our facility, they mentioned our dirty carpet. I was horrified because I am kind of a clean freak. But, they said that is the best sign ever because survivors vote with their feet. Dirty carpet means people use your services and trust you so they continue to come back."

The myriad of agencies housed within Palomar includes advocacy, law enforcement, legal aid, support for survivors of human trafficking, children and adult protective services and many more. "Violence does not discriminate. It can be found across all income and education levels. However, major components of violence and oppression are lack of education and poverty, and we know a lot of people in poverty are women. I believe in the power of pathways for people, and education is one of the most powerful pathways."