

Share Our Spare Appoints S. Mayumi "Umi" Grigsby, Esq. as Executive Director to Lead Next Chapter of Impact for Chicago's Youngest Children

CHICAGO, March 16, 2026 — Share Our Spare, the Chicago-based nonprofit ensuring every child ages 0-5 has the essentials they need for a strong start, today announced the appointment of S. Mayumi "Umi" Grigsby, Esq. as its new Executive Director. A respected leader in public service, nonprofit management, and equity-driven systems change, Grigsby will guide the organization's strategic growth and expand its impact on children and families across the region.

Grigsby is a cross-sector leader with deep experience advancing equity and innovative policy across government, philanthropy, and advocacy. As Deputy Chief of Policy and Director of Legislative Affairs at the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, she helped shepherd the passage of SB 1899 to reform gun case diversion in Illinois and launched new juvenile diversion pilots. Previously, as Chief of Policy for the City of Chicago, she spearheaded mental health system expansion and championed major worker protections, including expanded Paid Time Off and the elimination of the subminimum wage for tipped workers. In philanthropy, she served in a senior role with the Chicago Foundation for Women, as a Policy Advisor for the Racial Equity Justice Fund of Borealis Philanthropy, and as an evaluator for Pivotal Ventures' global women's health initiative through Lever for Change. She was also the elected Chair of the Cook County Human Rights Commission and is a fellow of Leadership Greater Chicago, Chicago Council on Global Affairs, and the German Marshall Fund.

"Umi is a visionary and collaborative leader whose career reflects a deep commitment to children, families, and equity," said Eva Giglio, Board Chair of Share Our Spare. "Her ability to build partnerships, scale impact, and lead with both operational excellence and compassion makes her the ideal person to lead Share Our Spare into its next phase. We are thrilled to welcome her and confident her leadership will help us reach even more families across our community."

Grigsby has a deep-rooted connection to the mission of Share Our Spare. Earlier in her career, she worked directly on diaper access initiatives and early childhood programs serving communities facing systemic inequities.

"I am deeply honored to join Share Our Spare at such an important moment," said Grigsby. "I have seen firsthand how access to essential resources can transform a child's trajectory and strengthen entire families and their communities. Share Our Spare's commitment to dignity, partnership, and equity resonates deeply with me and is exactly the kind of high-impact work I

want to lead and grow. I look forward to working alongside the dedicated team, board, and community partners to expand our reach and ensure every child has the foundation they need to thrive.”

In addition to its essentials distribution program, Share Our Spare serves as the local program partner for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, delivering free books each month to young children across Chicagoland—helping foster early literacy and lifelong learning.

Grigsby assumes leadership as Share Our Spare celebrates 15 years of impact and continues to expand its programs and partnerships, responding to growing community needs while advancing its vision of an equitable future where every child has the opportunity for a strong start.

About Share Our Spare

Since its founding in 2011, Share Our Spare ensures every Chicago-area child ages 0–5 has the essential items — including diapers, clothing, and other critical resources — they need to support their health and development. Through an extensive network of more than 180 community partners across nine counties in and around Chicago, Share Our Spare provides critical resources that empower families, strengthen caregiving, and help build a more resilient and equitable community. The organization supports around 20,000 children and families across metro Chicago on an annual basis.

Learn more at www.shareourspare.org.

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