

BRETT A. LOFTIS

Chief executive officer Crossnore School, NC

bloftis@crossnoreschool.org

Brett was born in urban Dallas County Texas, and at age ten he moved to a rural community outside of Seneca, SC. His early experiences observing the differences in class and race relations in these contrasting communities prompted his interest in civil rights and social change. While receiving his undergraduate degrees in Sociology and Political Science from Furman University, Brett first entered the world of child advocacy after becoming a volunteer Guardian ad Litem for abused children in the SC court system. Eventually Brett went on to work for the South Carolina Guardian ad Litem program where he trained volunteers and supervised over 165 lay advocates and a dozen volunteer attorneys. Even after leaving that work to pursue youth ministry, Brett never lost his passion of protecting the most vulnerable children. This consistent passion eventually sent him to Wake Forest School of Law to continue his career in child advocacy.



While at Wake Forest, Brett worked with a civil rights attorney in SC, a juvenile crime prevention program with the United States Attorney in NC's Middle District and the child sex crimes team of the Charlotte/Mecklenburg District Attorney's office. Brett went on to be a Child Advocate Attorney with the Council for Children in Charlotte. After being promoted to Director of Advocacy and later the Director of Operations at the Council for Children, Brett became the Executive Director in early 2005. Just over a year later, Brett led his agency through a merger with the Children's Law Center to form the Council for Children's Rights, the largest agency of its kind in the southeast. Brett serves on numerous local and statewide collaborative and legislative committees including the NC Child Fatality Task Force. He serves on the Board of Directors of The Covenant with NC's Children, Disability Rights NC, United Way of the Central Carolinas, Weaving Families Adoption Ministry and other local boards. In his free time, Brett coaches basketball and soccer and for the past eight years, he and his wife have led a Christian 12-step recovery ministry called Celebrate Recovery. Brett's greatest love is his wife Sally and his two boys Elijah and Lawson. Brett speaks statewide and nationally about children's issues and community change.

Longtime Child Advocate and Visionary Leader Joins The Crossnore School as CEO – Executive Director

December 21, 2012, Crossnore, NC – Mr. David Riggins, chairman, and the Board of Trustees of The Crossnore School will welcome an exceptional and outspoken child advocate as their new Chief Executive Officer – Executive Director. He is Brett A. Loftis. Mr. Loftis is currently the Executive Director of Council for Children's Rights in Charlotte, North Carolina. Mr. Loftis will join The Crossnore School February 1, 2013.

Mr. Riggins said, "I am certain our Board has chosen the right person, at the right time to lead The Crossnore School forward. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to work with such an outstanding child advocate. He can bring The Crossnore School to the next level of excellence."

Since 2000, Loftis has worked tirelessly with one goal in mind. He passionately believes all children should have the opportunity to grow up safe, healthy and educated. At the start of his career in Charlotte, he advocated for children on a wide range of issues, including special education, abuse/neglect, mental health, healthcare, and other areas of civil legal representation. In 2005, Loftis became the Executive Director of Council for Children's Rights and has worked to build the organization to where it is today - a comprehensive continuum of legal representation and advocacy services for children in Mecklenburg County.

Loftis is a visionary. In 2006, he helped lead the consolidation of the Children's Law Center and Council for Children, forming one of the first collaborations of like-minded non-profits in the community. Then, in 2009, Loftis helped launch The Larry King Center for Building Children's Futures, an initiative of the Council for Children's Rights, focused on making lasting, system-wide change for children in Mecklenburg County and North Carolina. The focus on system-wide change stems from unparalleled research and evaluation, community planning and policy advocacy. The initiative will help improve child well-being indicators for all 234,000 children living in Mecklenburg County. This ground-breaking undertaking has the potential to inform and change the way communities across the country serve children.

*Read more about the Loftis family at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>