John Van Camp retired as President and CEO of Southwest Solutions in May 2018 after leading the organization for 37 years. John started at Southwest Solutions as an administrative assistant in 1973, a year after the organization opened its doors as a small community mental health agency.

As CEO, John profoundly expanded the role of Southwest Solutions and its impact in the community. He believed that reintegrating the mentally ill and homeless into the community also required providing decent, affordable housing and support services, and actively participating in neighborhood revitalization and economic development.

Today, Southwest Solutions is a foremost provider of human and housing services and real estate development, providing more than 50 vital programs and employing more than 300 staff persons. Its programs assist more than 10,000 people a year and are known for achieving outstanding results in improving lives and strengthening communities. The extraordinary growth of Southwest Solutions and its national renown as an effective integrated-services and community-building organization stem from John’s leadership and vision.

In 2018, the National Council presented John its Visionary Leadership Award. John was named a national “Behavioral Healthcare Champion” and has received a Reinventing Michigan Award, the Wade H. McCree Jr. Award for the Advancement of Social Justice, and many other prestigious honors.

At Southwest Solutions, John surrounded himself with top leaders in their respective fields to realize the mission of enhancing the quality of life, success and self-efficiency of individuals and families in Detroit. John operates by the credo that “leadership is creating a compelling vision that others see as their own,” and he fostered an organizational culture where individuals are encouraged to innovate and excel. Under John’s leadership, Southwest Solutions assumed a leading and essential role in the future and revitalization of Detroit.