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JULIE HIROTA NAMED CEO OF SAINT JOHN'S PROGRAM FOR REAL CHANGE

Nonprofit Veteran to Lead Sacramento's Largest Residential Program for Formerly Homeless Women and Children

Sacramento, CA, April 13, 2020 – Saint John's Program for Real Change, Sacramento's largest residential program for formerly homeless women and children, today announced the appointment of nonprofit veteran Julie Hirota, 48, as its new chief executive officer. Hirota will take over for retiring Interim CEO Marc Cawdrey effective April 27, 2020. Cawdrey will remain on staff through July, 2020 to ensure a smooth transition and to provide additional guidance as the organization navigates the financial implications and "shelter in place" directives as a result of the COVID-19 threat.

"Julie brings a wealth of nonprofit and management experience to Saint John's, and we are thrilled to welcome her aboard," comments Saint John's Board Chair Phil Telgenhoff. "We appreciate Marc's willingness to step in as our interim CEO as of March of 2019, delaying his retirement plans to lead and support the organization through this important transition. Julie was selected after a months-long search from a field of very qualified candidates; it was clear to our board and to our leadership team that Julie's passion, insight and depth of experience will provide Saint John's with strong, innovative and thoughtful leadership moving forward."

Hirota joins Saint John's after serving three years as chief operations officer at UC Davis, where she was responsible for overseeing the academic and translational research environment for the Department of Biomedical Engineering. Her 25+ years of nonprofit leadership, operations, fundraising and community advocacy include serving as executive director for California CareForce, chief executive officer for Blue Line Arts -- Arts & Business Council, development director for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, president and chief executive officer of her own retail business designing and manufacturing clothing accessories, *jhiro*, and program manager for Hewlett-Packard. A resident of Roseville, Hirota currently serves as an elected board trustee for the Roseville Joint Union High School District and pursues legislative change related to protecting children. She has also served as planning commissioner for the City of Roseville, was on the Rotary board of directors for Youth Services, and was board president for the Placer County Visitor's Bureau. She is an American Leadership Forum Fellow, was named Executive of the Year in 2014 by the Arts & Business Council, and was named to the "40 Under 40" list by the Sacramento Business Journal in 2011. Julie holds a BS in Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science from University of CA at Davis. She is married with two children.

"A 'safe place' means something different to everyone," comments Hirota. "Nothing should stand between women and children having a safe place with trusted support and life-changing services. By aligning our community's needs, leveraging both business and philanthropic resources, building strategic partnerships and applying Saint John's proven model, we can target specific outcomes

and produce even greater impact. I look forward to furthering the mission among a talented team, guiding women and their children through Saint John's life-changing programs."

About Saint John's Program for Real Change

Saint John's began serving the region's homeless in 1985 when 20 women and children were found sleeping on the steps of St. John's Lutheran Church in Sacramento. Since that time, [Saint John's Program for Real Change](#) has evolved from an emergency shelter to an up-to-18-month comprehensive residential program, addressing the root causes in addition to the symptoms of homelessness, with wrap-around services including mental health therapy, addiction counseling, life skills coaching (parenting, anger management, domestic violence education, financial literacy and more), a path to a high school diploma, employment training, job readiness and job placement. 96% of Saint John's Employment Training Program graduates now earn an average of \$14.50 per hour, moving them from public assistance at \$529 per month to an earned income of \$2,508 per month, transitioning formerly homeless families to tax payers and contributing members of our community. To date, the organization has helped to transform the lives of more than 30,000 women and children, breaking the cycle of poverty and dependence, once and for all.

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