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Neighborhood House Hires New Executive Director

Portland, OR – July 10, 2017 – Neighborhood House, a leading Portland social service agency, has announced the appointment of Chris Chiacchierini as the new executive director, effective August 8th. Mr. Chiacchierini succeeds Rick Nitti, who has led the agency since 1999. Neighborhood House has provided education and anti-poverty programs for Portland’s low-income children, families, and seniors since 1905.

Chiacchierini was hired after a nation-wide search. “We were fortunate to have had a really strong and diverse pool of candidates. Chris rose to the top because of his proven leadership and management skills, passion for social justice work, dedication to equity and inclusion, strategic planning and financial management acumen, and character,” said Josh Kadish, President of the Board of Directors.

Chiacchierini, who started his career as a Jesuit volunteer working at DePaul Treatment Centers, recently served as the executive director of Incight, an organization that supports people with disabilities in attaining education and employment and engaging in recreational activities. Prior to that, he worked for ten years at the Oregon College of Oriental Medicine, including as Vice President for Planning and Operations. He also has extensive volunteer experience, including as board chair for the Metropolitan Learning

Center Educational Foundation, a writing tutor for inmates, SMART reader to children, cook at Our House (AIDS hospice), and youth soccer coach.

In accepting this position, Chiacchierini continues his dedication to improving the lives of others. “I am thrilled to join the Neighborhood House family. I am anxious to roll up my sleeves to help continue Neighborhood House’s impressive history of bringing neighbors together to reduce hunger and homelessness and offer life-changing services to children, youth, families, and seniors. I am moved by the staff and board’s passion for the work and their commitment to equity and inclusion.”

During his 18-year tenure, Nitti grew the organization from a \$2.3 million agency with 63 employees to a \$6.5 million organization with more than 160 staff today. In recent years, Neighborhood House developed a state-of-the-art early childhood learning center, in partnership with Home Forward. Over the last decade, Nitti led the transformation of Neighborhood House from an organization that focused primarily on Southwest Portland, to one whose services extend across the city. The organization now operates several school-based education and family support programs in North and Northeast Portland. Last fall, Neighborhood House merged with Peninsula Children’s Learning Center, a non-profit childcare and early learning program serving North/Northeast Portland.

Nitti enthusiastically endorses the selection of Chiacchierini as the new executive director: “It feels great to be able to hand the reins to Chris. He has all of the key skills we were seeking, and I know Neighborhood House will continue to thrive under his leadership. I look forward to working with Chris to assure a smooth transition and to continuing to support Neighborhood House in new ways in the years to come.”

Mr. Nitti will assist with Mr. Chiacchierini’s orientation and will stay connected with Neighborhood House as an advisor. A private event has been planned to honor Nitti’s legacy at Neighborhood House and celebrate the organization’s successes over the last 18 years. Donations in honor of Nitti or Chiacchierini can be made online at www.nhpdx.org or sent to 7780 SW Capitol Highway, Portland, Oregon, 97219.

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Neighborhood House delivers innovative and life-changing programs for low-income people of all ages. Our programs prepare children for success in school and life, help families move beyond poverty, and support seniors to continue living independently.