



Neighborhood House
Helping Neighbors Help Themselves

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Neighborhood House Announces Retirement of Long-Serving Executive Director. Launches Search for Successor.

Portland, OR – May 2, 2017 -- Neighborhood House, a leading Portland social service agency, has announced the retirement of its long-serving Executive Director, Rick Nitti. Nitti, who has led the agency since 1999, is credited with dramatically increasing the organization's size and the reach of its services across the Portland area. The Neighborhood House board of directors has launched a nation-wide search to hire Nitti's successor to oversee the agency, which has provided education and anti-poverty programs for Portland's low-income children, families and seniors since 1905. Nitti stated, "I have a tremendous admiration and passion for the Settlement House as a movement and institution. To carry on the Settlement tradition at Neighborhood House has truly been an honor. I have appreciated the opportunity to work for, with and on behalf of the amazing people I have been associated with at Neighborhood House for nearly two decades."

During his tenure, Nitti's impact on Neighborhood House has been substantial—growing it from a \$2.3 million agency with 63 employees in 1999, to a \$6.5 million organization with more than 160 staff today. Over the last decade, Nitti led the transformation of Neighborhood House from an organization that focused primarily on Southwest Portland, to one whose services extended across the city. A 2007 partnership with Multnomah County opened the door to the agency's expansion into North Portland, where it operates several school-based education and family support programs. In recent years, Nitti has overseen the expansion of Neighborhood House's early childhood education programming, including the development of a state-of-the art early childhood learning center to house the agency's Head Start program, in partnership with Home Forward. Last fall, he led the organization through a merger with Peninsula Children's Learning Center, a non-profit childcare and early learning program serving North/Northeast Portland. Says Neighborhood

House Board President Josh Kadish, “Under Rick’s leadership, Neighborhood House has grown dramatically into an organization which provides a critically-important part of the anti-poverty safety net in Portland. Rick is always thinking a few steps ahead, seeking strategic partnerships and stretching our dollars. He will be much missed in the organization and the communities it serves. “

In addition to his accomplishments at Neighborhood House, Nitti is recognized as a passionate spokesperson for families in poverty across the city, including the often invisible low-income residents of Portland’s west side. He is also a highly-regarded leader in the Oregon nonprofit community, serving as President of the Board of Directors at the Nonprofit Association of Oregon (NAO). NAO Executive Director Jim White remarked, “Rick has been an influential leader in the nonprofit sector and a great advocate for the role that nonprofits play in society. His deep social justice roots and values were evident in all the work he touched.”

The Neighborhood House board of directors has hired experienced executive transition consultant, Kathy Kniep, to assist with the search process. Interested parties can find the job posting on the agency’s website at <http://www.nhpdx.org/WhoWeAre/careers.html> . Applications will be accepted through May 19, 2017.

Plans are underway for celebrations of Nitti’s legacy, to be held in late summer or early fall. Details will be posted on the Neighborhood House website as they become available. The agency is inviting donations to Neighborhood House in honor of Nitti’s many years of committed service to the community. For more information about plans to honor retiring Neighborhood House Executive Director Rick Nitti, contact Neighborhood House Development Director Mari Yerger at 503-246-1663 x2119, or myerger@nhpdx.org.

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