PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A WIDER CIRCLE ANNOUNCES CEO TRANSITION

Founder, Dr. Mark Bergel forms a new institute. A Wider Circle begins a new era.

Silver Spring, Md. - A Wider Circle today announced that Dr. Mark Bergel has chosen to step down from his position as President & Chief Executive Officer, effective December 31st, 2020.

In his continued effort to eradicate poverty, Dr. Bergel will head up a new institute focused on poverty eradication on a national level, the cornerstone of which is his National Plan to End Poverty. Dr. Katherin Phillips, currently Vice President of Research at A Wider Circle, will join Dr. Bergel at the new institute.

A Wider Circle’s Board of Directors appointed Ms. Amy Javaid, A Wider Circle’s Senior Vice President, as Interim President to ensure a seamless transition of responsibilities as the Board embarks on an executive search for a new President.

This is an exciting new day at A Wider Circle, as this transition is going to further its mission in a significant manner. Under new leadership, the organization will move into its next era, expanding and escalating its current programs and services. Further, through the spin-off of this new institute, the efforts to end poverty will be amplified.

As Dr. Bergel has shared for a long time, it is unacceptable to think that society can allow the lack of progress in addressing poverty that we have seen over the past 60 years.

“\textit{I just can’t let another decade go by without seeing more progress,}” Dr. Bergel, who will remain on the A Wider Circle Board, said in an interview. “\textit{People in poverty are as marginalized and neglected as they’ve ever been. Even with social unrest, progress for people in poverty is hard to identify.}”

“This is such a positive and important step,” noted Mr. Marty Durbin, A Wider Circle’s Board Chair, “one taken because of the demand for A Wider Circle’s daily services (which continues to skyrocket through this pandemic) and our corresponding desire to see large-scale structural changes occur. We know that now is the time to pursue the latter even as we serve so many each day. Given the strength of the current staff, which now numbers nearly 70, and the experience and skills Dr. Bergel and Dr. Phillips will bring to a new institute, this is a
progression and a partnership that we believe will propel the effort to eradicate poverty in our nation."

Dr. Bergel has dedicated his life to ending poverty, and since starting A Wider Circle over 18 years ago, the organization has provided programming and services for more than 260,000 children and adults.

Annually, A Wider Circle:

- Furnishes the homes of more than 4,500 families
- Provides job readiness training and services to more than 3,000 job seekers
- Hosts more than 30,000 volunteers

“This is a time for major change, and A Wider Circle's Board and senior leadership recognize how important this step is to making that change possible,” Dr. Bergel shared.

Added Mr. Durbin, "It is an exciting time for us all at A Wider Circle. We are excited to see Mark expand his efforts and focus on change at the national level, and in Amy, we have an incredibly talented and accomplished leader who already runs two of our programs and will help steward us into the next era of service here."

Ms. Javaid joined A Wider Circle in February of 2017 as a Workforce Development Associate after spending time volunteering over the course of many years. She currently heads up the Families First DC project along with leading programs such as Workforce Development and Neighborhood Partnerships, and spearheading development and fundraising.

Dr. Bergel also noted that seeing the team at A Wider Circle adapt to changes during the COVID-19 pandemic assured him that the organization would be able to continue to carry out the mission while he shifted to this new role.

“Watching the staff during the pandemic has been inspiring, and I know we will continue to provide high quality programs and services to those who need them most,” he shared. “Ultimately, this change is not about us, but about the people we serve.”

About A Wider Circle
Since 2001, A Wider Circle has provided vital services to more than 260,000 children and adults. A corps of 30,000 annual volunteers helps us to serve about 30,000 people in need each year. Our mission is to end poverty through on-the-ground programs and services, as well as through the development of large-scale solutions to its root causes. Our holistic and personalized approach treats every one of our neighbors with respect and dignity. Engaging community members and companies with the time and resources to advance our mission enables us to provide furniture and essential household goods, enhance job skills, and
leverage community partnerships to support people who are at risk of homelessness or who have other barriers to self-sufficiency.

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