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HOPE 4 Youth Names John Sitarz to Board of Directors

Anoka, MN (June 9, 2016) – HOPE 4 Youth, a nonprofit organization serving homeless youth and those at risk of becoming homeless has named John Sitarz to its Board of Directors. Sitarz brings more than 28 years of leadership experience in the financial industry to the board, which has already shown through in his fundraising efforts for HOPE 4 Youth over the past three years.

Sitarz has been involved with HOPE 4 Youth since it opened its doors in 2013. “A few years ago, my daughter participated in a sleep-out to raise awareness of homeless youth,” Sitarz recalls. “When she told me about it, I thought it was for young people in Minneapolis. I had no idea that young people in Andover High School, the same ones that walked through the hallways with my daughter, were sleeping in their cars.”

Sitarz immediately knew that he needed to find a way to help these young people. When his daughter came home from the sleep-out, she gave him Karrie Schaff’s, Homeless Youth & Families Liaison Anoka-Hennepin School District, business card and said, “you are now involved.” Sitarz met with Karrie and two weeks later met with HOPE 4 Youth founder, Brian Swanson. After that meeting, Sitarz declared that he would help raise as much money as he could for HOPE 4 Youth.

As a financial professional with the Minnesota Business Center of the Principal Financial Group®, Sitarz works with businesses and individuals to help build plans and strategies to work towards financial success. He also specializes in estate planning, business succession planning and executive bonus programs.

“We are thrilled to have John Sitarz joining the board,” said Lisa Jacobson, HOPE 4 Youth Executive Director. “His successful fundraising efforts have allowed HOPE 4 Youth to continue meeting the basic needs of the young people we serve at the Drop-In Center, as well as, making our dream of a safe place for youth to lay their heads a reality with the current construction of HOPE Place. I have had the opportunity to work closely with John in his role as fundraising chair over the past four months and know that he is a perfect addition to the Board.”

Sitarz is a Minnesota native. He earned a BA in Finance from the University of St. Thomas (UST). He is actively involved in the community and is an active member of the UST Alumni Association, UST Football Alumni Club and Pheasants Forever (Habitat Conservation Organization). In his free time, he coaches Andover football and baseball and enjoys attending his kid’s sporting events, boating, hunting, fishing, golfing and skiing.

“I will not rest until these young people have a place to call home,” said Sitarz.

About HOPE 4 Youth

*HOPE 4 Youth, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located in Anoka, Minnesota, serves homeless youth by meeting basic needs, as well as helping youth find jobs, finish school, secure housing, and access health and wellness services. The Drop-In Center is open Monday – Friday, 2-7 p.m. **Mission:** providing pathways to end youth homelessness. **Vision:** that all youth feel safe, valued, and supported while reaching their full potential. This begins with meeting their basic needs and leads to giving them the tools and resources to thrive. For more information, visit HOPE4YouthMN.org or contact Kristin VanHeel at kvanheel@hope4youthmn.org.*

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