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HOPE 4 Youth Names James Stuart, Anoka County Sheriff, to Board of Directors

Anoka, MN (June 15, 2016) – HOPE 4 Youth, a nonprofit organization serving homeless youth and those at-risk of becoming homeless, has named James Stuart, Anoka County Sheriff, to its Board of Directors. Sheriff Stuart brings a commitment to the development of our youth to the Board as well as a belief that by working together, we can make a difference.

“As I supported HOPE 4 Youth’s efforts over the years, I saw that their passion was real and so were their results. As our partnership grew, becoming a Board Member seemed like a logical next step to continue investing in our area youth,” said Sheriff Stuart. “As a product of a challenging childhood, I understand what difficult times look and feel like. I also understand, and have seen many times, what can happen in a young person’s life when hope is restored. It is my hope to support the HOPE 4 Youth team, and especially the youth, as we work to get them on a productive path. Once they see their value and potential, they can also begin to see their lofty dreams become a future reality.”

Sheriff Stuart is the 17th Sheriff of Anoka County since the office was established in 1857. He is a former marine and began his career with the Sheriff’s Office in 1994 as a patrol deputy and rose through the ranks by earning several promotions. Sheriff Stuart has a demonstrated commitment to providing the best possible services to the citizens that he proudly serves and actively participates in numerous collaborative and outreach efforts.

Sheriff Stuart is active with the Minnesota Sheriff’s Association as a Board Member and represents law enforcement on the MSA Legislative and training committees. He is active on the national level with the National Sheriff’s Association as a member of the Domestic Violence Committee, Youth Programs Committee and International Policing Committee. He is also a member of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, the Minnesota Domestic Violence Committee, the National Domestic Preparedness Coalition; the Executive Committee for the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, a Board member for the Equal Justice Committee; Member of the Association of MN Counties FUTURES Task Force, an Advisory board member for Rasmussen Criminal Justice Studies Program, the Secretary/Treasurer for the Joint Law Enforcement Council; and Past Board Member for the Governor’s Forensic Lab Advisory Board and Past President of the Anoka County Chiefs of Police Association. In 2015, he was nominated for “National Sheriff of the Year” and was awarded the Medal of Merit by the National Sheriff’s Association for his contributions to the community and to the field of criminal justice.

“I am beyond thrilled to welcome Jim Stuart to the HOPE 4 Youth Board of Directors. His extensive expertise in law enforcement and his own personal experience will prove invaluable to us going forward,” said Lisa Jacobson, Executive Director. “On behalf of the youth we serve, the board, staff, and volunteers, I can’t begin to say how pleased we are that Jim has recognized the potential of HOPE 4 Youth, at this point in our development, and that he wants to join our efforts to help the youth move from homeless to hopeful.”

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Sheriff Stuart is a graduate of St. Mary's University and the National Sheriff's Institute and studied Public Safety Leadership at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. He has been married to his wife, Lisa, for 27 years and they have 3 children. They reside in Andover, and are very active as a family in their church and in the community.

About HOPE 4 Youth

*HOPE 4 Youth, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located in Anoka, Minnesota, serves homeless youth and those at-risk of becoming homeless in the north metro (including all of Anoka County and parts of Hennepin County) 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, 2p.m.–7p.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, please visit HOPE4YouthMN.org or contact Kristin VanHeel at kvanheel@hope4youthmn.org.*

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