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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**HOPE 4 Youth Names Sue Woodard to Board of Directors**

**Anoka, MN (April 19, 2016)** – HOPE 4 Youth, a nonprofit organization serving at-risk and homeless youth, has named Sue Woodard to its Board of Directors. Woodard, the president and CEO of Vantage Production, brings more than 20 years of strategic leadership to the board as well as a passion for guiding young people on their journey to adulthood.

“I have long had a heart for teenagers and young adults, particularly of the age served by HOPE 4 Youth,” said Woodard. “Those very informative years in life hold so many things – growth, challenge, transition, and learning - and very often are accompanied by pain and struggle. They are special years, where acceptance, love, support, and guidance is need more than ever; HOPE 4 Youth offers exactly that.”

Woodard is one of the mortgage industry’s most recognizable leaders. She brings a perspective and expertise to her industry, and beyond, that is truly extraordinary. Woodard is a highly sought-after speaker, writer and advisor and has hosted a successful financial radio program as well as made appearances on CNBC’s SquawkBox and Jim Cramer’s Mad Money.

“I am honored to have this opportunity, as serving as a board member at HOPE 4 Youth resonates with several of my core values. I am truly grateful for the chance to join fellow board members in leading and directing the future of the organization, raising up community members to join in the efforts, and ultimately, ending youth homelessness in Anoka County,” said Woodard.

“We are thrilled to have Sue Woodard on the board at HOPE 4 Youth,” said Lisa Jacobson, HOPE 4 Youth’s Executive Director. “As we begin working strategically to end youth homelessness in Anoka County by 2024, we need someone like Sue to help us close our Drop-In Center doors in 8 years. I believe she is a perfect fit and look forward to working with her!”

Woodard is a Minnesota native. She earned BA degrees in both finance and business from Augsburg, minoring in economics. She is actively involved in the local community having chaired numerous committees as well as held positions for a nonprofit parent group supporting music programs. She is also a fitness enthusiast who participates in community and charity events.

**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, 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](http://HOPE4YouthMN.org) or contact Kristin VanHeel at [kvanheel@hope4youthmn.org](mailto:kvanheel@hope4youthmn.org).*

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