



For Immediate Release

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New CEO & President Announced at Friends of Youth

Terry Pottmeyer Steps Down After Nine Years as CEO

Message from the Board Chair, Friends of Youth

Kirkland, WA - The Board of Trustees of Friends of Youth announces that Terry Pottmeyer is departing as Chief Executive Officer, effective February 4, 2019. Terry has played a vital role in furthering the mission, vision and values of Friends of Youth and the Board is grateful for her exemplary service. Under her nine years of leadership the agency grew from \$8M to \$17M, increased our commitment and programming to address youth and young adult homelessness, expanded our extended foster care program for refugee and immigrant youth, increased behavioral health access, including integration with physical healthcare and launched our WISe/Wraparound services. During her tenure we completed a \$7M capital campaign resulting in seven new buildings, opened a new office in North Bend, and expanded capacity for both our under 18 shelter and our young adult shelter, the Landing. She was appointed by the County Executive to serve on King County's Youth Action Plan Committee, its Health & Human Services Transformation Plan Committee, and most recently completed a three-year term on the Children & Youth Advisory Board, which oversees the County's Best Start for Kids and Youth Action Plans.

Terry's transition is a considered a response to the Board and agency's commitment to ensure that the leadership of our agency reflects the community we serve. She was an active participant in identifying and supporting the selection of our new CEO, Paul Lwali.

The Board is thrilled to welcome Paul to our team. He most recently served as the Senior Executive Director for North Region of the YMCA of Greater Seattle, where he increased equity and inclusion among YMCA members and created new strategic partnerships both locally and

internationally. He has served as the Executive for many YMCA branches across the country, including the Bellevue YMCA where he created innovative programming for special needs participants, partnered with other non-profits and school districts on addressing out of school issues, and helped forge new and positive relations with various ethnic and religious groups.

“I am excited by the opportunity to lead Friends of Youth, an important and impactful Eastside agency, to a future where all children have what they need to succeed. I will continue to strive to make a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable youth while deepening the agency’s work on diversity, equity and inclusion.” — Paul Lwali, CEO, Friends of Youth.



Paul holds a MPA from the University of Washington and a BS in Political Science from Washington University in St. Louis.

We are grateful to our community, our dedicated staff, our government funders and our foundation supporters for their partnership. Together, we are excited to usher in a new chapter of impactful work for Friends of Youth.

We are planning a reception to recognize Terry’s work in the coming weeks. We will post details on our website.

Come and meet Paul at our upcoming luncheon, **Celebration of Youth, March 1, 2019** at the Bellevue Hyatt. [Registration is available here.](#)

If you have any questions or concerns during this transition process, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly at marla@friendsofyouth.org.

Sincerely,

William Savoy

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About Friends of Youth: Established in 1951 Friends of Youth partners with youth and families to provide the relationships, resources, and skills they need to attain personal growth and success. With 68 years of experience, 27 program sites and services in 18 cities, we provide safe places and emotional support for youth facing challenging circumstances. Our vision is for all youth to have every opportunity to succeed, and our services are designed to fulfill that vision. For more information, visit www.friendsofyouth.org.