



Neighborhood House
Strong Families. Strong Communities. Since 1906.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 25, 2018

Contact: Nancy Gardner
Phone: 206-461-8430, Ext. 2051
E-mail: nancyg@nhwa.org

Neighborhood House Executive Director Mark Okazaki Announces Pending Retirement from Leading Non-Profit Organization

Neighborhood House Budget Quadrupled Under Okazaki's Leadership as Organization Continues to Thrive and Bring Services to King County's Most Isolated Residents, Underserved Communities

Seattle, Wash., April 25, 2018—Neighborhood House, one of the oldest social service agencies in the Puget Sound Region, today announced that Executive Director Mark Okazaki will retire in the fall of 2019 after 18 years of service to the organization.

The Neighborhood House Board of Trustees will begin engaging a broad range of stakeholders to inform the search, selection, and transition process for the new Executive Director, with a comprehensive search for the new leader slated to start in early 2019 and a replacement scheduled to be in place by fall of 2019.

As a multiservice organization serving over 14,000 of our region's immigrant, refugee and low-income community members each year, Neighborhood House has 27 locations throughout King County.

Under Okazaki's leadership, the organization has quadrupled its budget from \$5 million to \$20 million, bringing services to some of King County's most isolated residents and underserved communities. This included a range of community health, employment, housing stability and homelessness prevention services, and a significant expansion of early learning programs.

"During my time on the Board of Neighborhood House, under Mark's guidance, the early childhood education programs have doubled in size and the tutoring centers moved from spare apartment units to beautiful community centers. So many successful programs have been added to address the needs of the communities we serve and none of that would have been possible without Mark's leadership," said Neighborhood House Board of Trustee President Aubrey Seffernick. "Mark's storytelling, his humbleness, and his passion radiates to staff, donors, and policymakers and constantly pushes us to do more."

"During my time at Neighborhood House we have accomplished a lot and I am filled with pride every day." said Okazaki. "We have a deeply committed Board of Trustees, a strong leadership team, passionate and dedicated staff, and effective management and financial systems in place. But there is much more to be done to help our neighbors reach their full potential—so finding a successor who will bring

energy and passion to this organization and our community is essential. Our Board is ready and prepared for this transition and when the time comes I have great confidence that they will find an excellent leader who will immediately pick up where I left off.”

###

ABOUT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

From their earliest beginnings serving Jewish immigrants in the 1900s to their work today with people from numerous countries and cultures, Neighborhood House has helped generations of families fulfill the promise of America — an education for their children, self-sufficiency for their families and a meaningful place in a caring community. Serving over 14,000 King County residents each year, their mission is to partner with diverse individuals and families to build community and achieve their goals for health, education and self-sufficiency.