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Ann Marie Barter joins Grace Place for Children and Families from the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy

Naples, FL – September 18, 2020– **Grace Place for Children and Families appoints Ann Marie Barter as Grace Place Family Literacy Model® Administrator.**

Barter joins Grace Place, following nearly six years with the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, where she served as the Senior Director of Curriculum and Training. In this role, Barter traveled nationally, developing and evaluating literacy programs to help communities with low-literacy risk factors overcome barriers to success associated with unmet literacy needs. Barter also wrote curriculum, created program standards, and delivered training at national conferences and regionally during her tenure with the Foundation.

At Grace Place, Barter will facilitate the growth and implementation of the Grace Place Family Literacy Model® (GPFLM). Barter will oversee existing GPFLM partner programs and evaluate and establish new sites for the Model across the country, ensuring a continued high standard of programming and working towards Grace Place for Children and Families' mission to provide pathways out of poverty by educating children and families.

"I have traveled all over the country reviewing early childhood education and family literacy programs, and Grace Place is arguably the best in the country. I am honored and excited to have the opportunity to join the Grace Place team, and to lead the growth of this outstanding program," Barter said.

Barter's hiring comes as Grace Place implements a plan of strategic growth for the family literacy program. "All of us at Grace Place are thrilled to have Ann Marie join the team. Her expansive knowledge and vast experience are just what Grace Place needs to move GPFLM forward in this exciting growth stage," Chief Program Officer Diane Ponton said. "We have received interest from organizations across the country, and I'm excited to see the program extended beyond families in Collier County and addressing the challenge of multi-generational poverty in more communities around the country."

Barter holds a master's degree from the University of Southern Maine and a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois.

ABOUT GRACE PLACE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES:

Grace Place for Children and Families is a nonprofit family literacy center committed to providing pathways out of poverty by educating children and families. Grace Place enrolls over 1000 individuals in its education programs each year. Its nationally recognized Bright Beginnings program, a Grace Place Family Literacy Model®, serves preschool children and their parents. Grace Place School Age Programs, funded by the Florida Department of Education, provide afterschool, summer, and college access programming to K-12 youth. The Adult Education program at Grace Place offers English language, literacy, computer literacy, and citizenship courses. Helping families throughout Collier County combat food insecurity, the Food Pantry at Grace Place serves over 250 families each week. Grace Place works extensively with community partners to provide medical and mental health screenings, referrals for other services, and financial literacy classes to the Golden Gate community. Grace Place offers many volunteer opportunities in its literacy programs, mentoring, adult education, and other areas. Visit www.graceplacenaples.org to learn more.

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