



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grace Place for Children and Families announces Lära Fisher as Chief Executive Officer

Naples, FL – September 22, 2020 –**Grace Place for Children and Families** today announces that, after completing a national search, the Board of Directors has selected Lära Fisher as Chief Executive Officer effective October 19, 2020. Fisher will build on the strength of the distinctive, nationally recognized, and award-winning family literacy model at Grace Place, overseeing program offerings' strategic advancement and contributing her substantial experience as a tenured nonprofit leader. Fisher, with more than 20 years of experience and success in youth education and human services for underserved communities, understands the unique challenges faced by small to midsize nonprofits. Fisher most recently served as CEO and President of the South County Outreach – Hunger and Homeless Services Agency in Irvine, California, earning the distinction of 2019 California Nonprofit of the Year and chairing a county-wide, 18-agency member Family Solutions Collaborative.

"The Board and I are confident that Lära is the right person to build on our solid foundation. She fully appreciates the pivotal role family literacy can play in supporting and lifting a community out of poverty and is prepared to bring all of her energy and professional skills to lead the effort," said Jim Bosscher, Board chair and interim CEO. "She is a seasoned leader with significant experience, creativity, and innovation grounded in smart business planning who will advance the mission and lead the future growth of Grace Place."

"I'm excited to join the team at Grace Place, enriching the lives of children and families who will continue to strengthen our communities." said Lära Fisher. "Literacy can shape more futures than just the student's own and positively impact more than the Collier community. Naples has a rare gem in Grace Place, whose programs are vital to ending the cycle of poverty throughout SW Florida and beyond."

Before relocating to SW Florida, Fisher spent eight years as the President and CEO of the South County Outreach – Hunger and Homeless Services Agency, where she was responsible for the operation and management of five business centers: Housing, Food Pantry, Rental & Utility Assistance, Computer Learning Lab and Thrift Store; with a focus on rebranding, increased visibility, and increased financial stability. Her prior position with Boy Scouts of America solidified her exceptional fundraising and donor relations skills on a national level, as featured on the *Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, *Oprah*, among others, as well as national and local print media.



Her career began at Loras College in marketing and media relations roles of increasing responsibility. Fisher holds a Master of Arts degree in Public Relations from the University of Northern Iowa and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Journalism from Iowa State University.

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 300 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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