



Nonprofit Leaders Join GPNP Advisory Team

PITTSBURGH, PA, Dec. 18, 2015 - Five nonprofit leaders were confirmed to the Greater Pittsburgh Nonprofit Partnership's (GPNP) Advisory Team during last night's GPNP annual meeting. The new Advisory Team members are: Allies for Children Executive Director Patrick Dowd; POISE Foundation Vice President of Programs Karris Jackson; Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank President and CEO Lisa Scales; Green Building Alliance Executive Director and Vice President of Innovation Aurora Sharrard; and Community Human Services CEO Adrienne Walnoha. Auberle CEO John Lydon was reelected to serve as Chair of the Advisory Team.

"I am ecstatic that GPNP's Advisory Team has five exceptional new members for the coming year," said Auberle CEO and GPNP Advisory Team Chair John Lydon. "Adrienne, Aurora, Karris, Lisa, and Patrick all have a wealth of experience and expertise that will greatly enhance GPNP's capacity. I am looking forward to working with them as we work to amplify GPNP's impact throughout the Pittsburgh region."

"It is a truly an honor to be working alongside our Advisory Team to advocate on behalf of our region's nonprofits," said GPNP Executive Director Samantha Balbier. "Adding such distinguished leaders to our team strengthens GPNP's voice for nonprofits and enables us to embark on an ambitious agenda for 2016. I am excited to work with and learn from our new Advisory Team members."

The new Advisory Team members are succeeding team members who completed their terms of service. The outgoing Advisory Team members are: Grable Foundation Executive Director Gregg Behr; former Life's Work President and CEO Everett McElveen; Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh President and CEO Brian Schreiber; and Kelly Strayhorn Theater Executive Director Janera Solomon. The outgoing Advisory Team members were recognized for their exemplary service during GPNP's annual meeting on December 17th.

The new Advisory Team members' biographies and headshots follow below.



Patrick Dowd, Ph.D, is the Executive Director of Allies for Children, a child advocacy nonprofit dedicated to being a bold voice for policy changes that improve the lives of children. Prior to that, he served as a local elected official for almost a decade. On the Pittsburgh Board of Education, he helped build a strong coalition that ushered in an era of robust education reform that focused on academic excellence and accountability. He later was elected to the Pittsburgh City Council, where he chaired the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee.



Karris M. Jackson is the Vice President of Programs at POISE Foundation, a community foundation focused exclusively on supporting the African American community. Her responsibilities include managing the Foundation's grant making portfolio, convening community stakeholders, and advancing the foundation's mission through leadership and advocacy. She is a published author, blogger, and lecturer on social justice, leadership, and philanthropy. She has a strong desire to push the

boundaries of philanthropy to be more inclusive and effective at addressing issues impacting the Black community.



Lisa Scales is the President and CEO of the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. Since 2012, she has led the organization in distributing 23 million meals to 360,000 people annually through a network of more than 400 partner agencies in 11 counties. She also serves as co-chair of Feeding America's Produce Enterprise Strategy Committee, President of the Eastern Region Association of Food Banks for Feeding America, board Vice President for Hunger-Free Pennsylvania, among many other leadership positions.



Dr. Aurora Sharrard is the Executive Director and Vice President of Innovation of the Green Building Alliance. She leads the organization in achieving its mission of inspiring the creation of healthy, high performing places for everyone through leadership that connects knowledge, transformative ideas, and collaborative action. A GBA staff member since 2007, she continues to drive organizational innovation while advancing GBA's strategic plan, programs, staff, and stakeholder relationships. A nationally recognized green building expert, she has served GBA under several titles, always providing innovative solutions and strategic thinking and application.



Adrienne Walnoha is the CEO of Community Human Services. Her primary focus is ensuring CHS has the resources it needs to provide a wide array of flexible, person-centered supportive services. She works closely with the board and the staff of CHS to understand the needs in our community and how CHS can help community members meet those needs and achieve their personal goals.

###

CONTACT:

Samantha Balbier

412-394-4275

balbier@forbesfunds.org

About The Forbes Funds and Greater Pittsburgh Nonprofit Partnership (GPNP)

Established in 1982, The Forbes Funds is a supporting organization of The Pittsburgh Foundation. The focus of The Forbes Funds is building the management capacity of community-based nonprofits individually and collectively through management assistance, scalable solutions, applied research and sector leadership. The Greater Pittsburgh Nonprofit Partnership is coalition of over 420 nonprofits and community partners from a 12 county region in SWPA; joining together to improve the viability, impact and effectiveness of the nonprofit sector. GPNP connects nonprofits across missions to build partnership to sustain services provided to the community. GPNP members advocate as a collective voice on important issues that impact Southwestern Pennsylvania. GPNP advances the capacity and focus of the nonprofit sector to meet current and future community needs. Learn more at

<http://www.forbesfunds.org> and www.gpnp-pgh.org.