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For immediate release

TORONTO, ON, November 11, 2020

Stella's Place Announces Appointment of New Executive Director, Wangari Muriuki

Toronto, ON – On behalf of the board of directors of Stella's Place, Donna Green, Founder and Chair, is excited to announce Wangari Muriuki as the new Executive Director. Wangari will become only the second executive director in the organization's history, succeeding the retiring Jenny Carver, Stella's Place's founding executive director.

Wangari is an experienced team builder, advocate and activist. Throughout her career, Wangari has demonstrated leadership and compassion while embracing new and innovative approaches to service delivery across the fields of mental health and addictions, housing and precarity, with a focus on racialized and vulnerable communities.

"The transition away from a founding Executive Director can be daunting for any organization," said Donna Green. "From the moment Jenny Carver shared with me her decision to retire, our entire organization has been committed to finding the right successor to continue building on what we have all accomplished together. Wangari's passion and experience make her exactly the right person."

Stella's Place undertook an extensive search for a new executive director, and the caliber of candidates who put themselves forward was truly impressive. True to the co-design spirit that guides all Stella's Place does, staff were consulted on the qualities they believe essential to a successful candidate and a committee of young adults, family members, and staff participated in the interview processes. Taken together, the quality of the applicants and the collaborative nature of the process make Wangari's appointment even more exciting.

Wangari brings expertise in governance, operational and financial management and strategic planning, making her uniquely suited to lead the team at Stella's Place as the organization continues to grow. With varied experience and a passion for the cause of mental health and addictions, Wangari is certain to bring a new energy and new ideas to the Stella's Place community. Her dynamism and ingenuity have enabled her to guide several organizations through Quality Improvement, Anti-racism and Anti-oppression frameworks.

"I want to thank Donna Green and everyone at Stella's Place for this amazing opportunity," said Wangari. "Jenny Carver and the incredible team at Stella's Place have created something special, recognized by young adults, their families and mental health practitioners all across the province. I cannot wait to get started," she continued.



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Wangari's work begins today. She will spend the coming weeks meeting and listening to members of the team and community and will work in transitional partnership with Jenny until her first full week beginning December 21.

About Stella's Place

Co-designed with young adults, Stella's Place offers peer, clinical and online services for young people between 16 and 29 years old in a non-residential, community setting. Services include peer support, clinical, employment, wellness and recovery programs to help young adults learn skills, find connection and be empowered to manage their own health.

In 2013, Donna Green founded Stella's Place after struggling for years to find help for her daughter, Stella, who was battling severe anxiety. Stella's Place is a registered charity funded through grants and donations. All services are offered free of charge.

To arrange an interview, please contact Dagmar Schroeder at 416-432-0207 or dschroeder@stellasplace.ca. Further information can be found at www.stellasplace.ca

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