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Veteran Chicago Non-Profit Leader Joins Teen Living Programs as New Executive Director

February 9, 2009-Teen Living Programs' Board Chair Gerald L. Pauling, II, has announced that after an exhaustive national search that Geraldine "Jeri" Linas, a veteran Chicago non-profit manager has joined Teen Living Programs as Executive Director. "The board of directors are thrilled to have Jeri join the team and are confident that her experience and expertise will bring us ever closer to achieving our vision of becoming a national thought and practice leader in the field of youth homelessness," Pauling said.

Jeri joins Teen Living Programs (TLP) after a long career in Chicago's social service and philanthropic communities, with a focus on survivors of domestic violence. She served as the Executive Director of Rainbow House, a social service and shelter agency serving battered women and their families in, and then as the Assistant Director of the Mayor's Office on Domestic Violence. Most recently she served as Program Director for the National Cosmetology's Association where she managed national campaigns supporting disaster relief, domestic violence prevention and cancer survivor support. She brings to TLP a great deal of experience with coalition building, organizational development, fundraising, and stakeholder engagement.

"I am absolutely honored to have been selected to serve TLP as its next Executive Director," Linas said. "Chicago is very fortunate to have an organization like TLP to call its own. TLP is recognized across the country, by other service providers, as a leader in the field of serving the homeless youth population. It is TLP's combination of a cutting edge program model and philosophy with measured results and outcomes, that make the organization so effective. Everyday TLP changes the life of another Chicago youth, who without TLP would have nowhere else to turn." Linas concluded.

Linas replaces David Myers, who lead the organization for almost 10 years and left TLP in May, 2009 after receiving an appointment in the Obama Administration. Transition Guides, a consulting firm regarded as a national leader in nonprofit executive transitions, based out of Washington DC, carried out the national search.

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*Teen Living Programs' mission is to create hope and opportunity for youth who are homeless by assisting them to permanently leave the streets, secure stable housing, and build self-sufficient, satisfying lives. Teen Living Programs (TLP) has successfully served Chicago's at-risk youth for more than 30 years. We began in 1976 as a specialized house care program for wards of the state and started serving youth who are homeless in 1981. Since 2001, we have focused **solely** on youth who are homeless — and we are the only Chicago agency to do so.*

Teen Living Programs annually serves 500 youth through a continuum of services: a street and community outreach program, a school-based prevention program, and three residential programs (an eight-bed emergency shelter, a 24-bed group transitional living program, and a 10-apartment independent living program), with wraparound supportive services in education, vocation, and recreation; a health and nutrition program; and aftercare. Visit www.teenliving.org for more information.