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TLP Board Chair Announces Executive Director's Departure for Appointment to Obama Administration

Teen Living Programs' Board Chair Gerald L. Pauling, II, has announced that after more than nine years of exemplary service to Chicago's youth who are homeless, David L. Myers is leaving his post as executive director, effective May 21, 2009. Myers has received an appointment in the Obama administration as the Director of the Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives in the Department of Homeland Security. "We are thrilled for David and heartened to know that his leadership gifts will be put into service for the entire country," Pauling said.

Teen Living Programs (TLP) evolved significantly during Myers' tenure. With a vision of becoming a national thought and practice leader, TLP honed its mission to serving homeless youth exclusively and relocated all programs to the city's underserved South Side. "This focus has allowed us to develop a comprehensive continuum of services specifically designed to meet the complex needs of youth who are homeless," Pauling said. "Our programs are now receiving attention nationally because they are clinically sophisticated, therapeutically holistic, evidence-based, and efficient."

Under Myers' leadership, Teen Living Programs has increased the annual number of youth served by 80 percent, increased the operating budget by 20 percent, campaigned for and constructed a new facility, increased board diversity and capacity, and won the 2009 Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility.

"Above all other privileges afforded me during my time as TLP's executive director is the hope I have come to experience through our youth's courage, staff's passion, and board's commitment," Myers said. "Most importantly, I have hope because of our supporters' belief that in this little corner of Chicago's many needs, something special and true and worthy is happening."

Pauling is chairing a transition team consisting of senior board members and agency directors. "It has been David's legacy to empower all of us to continue on our path of leadership in the field, and we have put a solid, best-practice transition plan in place for the coming months," Pauling said. The team has engaged Transition Guides, a national leader in nonprofit executive transitions, to assist through an interim period. The team is recruiting a part-time interim executive director to support the board's oversight and senior staff's ongoing work during the 4- to 12-month interim period, during which time the team will assess TLP's executive leadership needs and recruit a new, long-term executive director.

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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.