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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROCHESTER AREA FOUNDATION NAMES JENNIFER WOODFORD AS NEXT PRESIDENT

ROCHESTER, MN (April 24, 2017) – The Rochester Area Foundation (RAF) announced today that its Search committee and Board of Trustees has hired Jennifer Woodford as the organization’s next President. Woodford, who currently serves as the Executive Director at Channel One Regional Food Bank, will succeed Karel Weigel, the current Interim President, on June 26.

“After thorough succession planning and a comprehensive search process, the board is pleased to have found the best individual to assume leadership of your community foundation,” said Wendy Shannon, Chair of the Board of Trustees and Co-Chair of the Search Committee. “Jennifer has a track record of strong leadership. This combined with her deep love for the Rochester Area makes Jennifer uniquely qualified to lead RAF successfully into the future.”

The selection of Woodford caps a search process facilitated by a seasoned Search Committee co-chaired by Wendy Shannon, chair of the RAF Board of Trustees, and Dr. Hugh Smith, past-chair of the Board of Trustees. Other members of the search committee include Mark Utz (RAF Board First Vice-Chair), Greg Layton (RAF Board Second Vice-Chair), Brad Schmidt (RAF Board Treasurer), Denise Kelly (RAF Board Secretary), Don Supalla, Walt Ling, Jose Rivas, Paul Fleissner, Dr. Kathryn Lombardo, and Karel Weigel (RAF Interim President).

“Jennifer is the best choice from a deep pool of interested and highly qualified candidates,” said Dr. Hugh Smith. “She’s been a successful executive in this area. Even more important, she is a great fit with each of the critical leadership competencies we evaluated as part of our selection process. We’re delighted that she’s accepted the position.”

“This is an important time of growth and change for our area, and through philanthropy and community partnerships the Rochester Area Foundation is positioned to play a critical role in building and enhancing the quality of life for all who live, work, learn and play here,” said Woodford. “I am honored to be joining the wonderful staff and volunteers at the Rochester Area Foundation. I look forward to continuing their work building better communities in the greater Rochester Area.”

Woodford is a longtime Rochester resident, and graduate of Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. She joined Channel One Regional Food Bank in 2009, and spent the last five years as the Executive Director. Jennifer and her husband Eric, as well as her daughter Maddie and son Will, are active in the community.

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About the Rochester Area Foundation

For over 70 years, the Rochester Area Foundation has partnered with donors to build and enhance the quality of life in the greater Rochester area through philanthropic leadership and community partnerships. To find out how the Foundation can connect you with the causes you care about most; call (507)282-0203 or visit online at www.rochesterarea.org