



The Sheltering Arms Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Denise Mayotte, Executive Director
dmayotte@sheltering-arms.org
612-871-9210

The Sheltering Arms Foundation Names New Trustees and Board President

***New trustees join from Edina, Medina, Minneapolis;
Tina Pfau Gonzales of Minneapolis elected president***

MINNEAPOLIS, September 22, 2016 — The Sheltering Arms Foundation is pleased to announce that three women leaders have joined its board of trustees. The 2016-2017 class of trustees includes **Claire McIlhenny Dempsey** of Edina, **Andrea Larson** of Minneapolis and **Rev. Rena Turnham** of Medina. The foundation's newly elected board president for fiscal year 2016-2017 is **Tina Pfau Gonzales** of Minneapolis, a member of St. James on the Parkway Episcopal Church who is development manager for Pillsbury United Communities.

The new additions bring the Sheltering Arms' board roster to 19 trustees. Trustees, who serve up to two three-year terms, are women members of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota who volunteer their time and expertise to guide the foundation. Board members are selected for their diverse skills, backgrounds and experiences, and represent congregations throughout Minnesota. They are responsible for being the fiduciary and strategic leaders of the organization.

"This is a strategic planning year for Sheltering Arms, and as we look ahead to the next five years, we are focusing on equity, addressing the serious issue that children of color continue to be left behind," said new board president Tina Pfau Gonzales, who has a BA in international studies from the American University in Washington, DC, and an International MBA from the University of St. Thomas and has served on Sheltering Arms' board since 2011. "We are exploring different ways of looking at philanthropy, being creative and nimble so we can change with the times as our communities' demographics change. It is quite an honor to build on the legacy of the radical Episcopal women who came before us and continue their work of focusing on vulnerable children throughout Minnesota."

Claire McIlhenny Dempsey, resident of Edina and member of St. Stephen the Martyr Episcopal Church, serves on the vestry of St Stephen's, as well as volunteering for Breck School and Twin Cities RISE's capital campaign, and serving as a board member for Conservation Minnesota and Audubon Minnesota. With a BA in economics from Brown University and an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, she worked at General Mills as a marketing executive in new product development.

Andrea Larson, resident of Minneapolis and member of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, serves on the development committee for the Northside Achievement Zone. Previously she volunteered on the site council as a business partner for Patrick Henry High School in north Minneapolis and as a job readiness mentor for newly arrived refugees with the Minnesota Council of Churches. With a BA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an MA in public policy from the University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs, she currently works for the City of Minneapolis leading strategic planning and analysis for the City enterprise. Prior to that, she worked at Target Corporation in business and then later in community relations, focusing on the corporate philanthropy and overseeing Target's national education initiatives. She is Sheltering Arms' first board member who is a third generation

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trustee – her grandmother, Marnie Lind, was a founding board member of the foundation, and her mother, Peggy Larson, also served as a trustee.

Rev. Rena Turnham, resident of Medina, serves as a deacon at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral in Minneapolis. Her primary role is to foster relationships downtown between St. Mark's and other congregations, social service agencies and nonprofits. Most recently she has been a part of launching the first Episcopal Service Corps site in Minnesota, Circle of the Beloved. Rena has also been involved in affordable housing and gun violence prevention advocacy with the faith communities she has served. She serves on the Cuban ministry commission of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota, having traveled there twice to foster relationships between dioceses and install water filtration systems. With a bachelor of business degree in marketing from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, she has worked for non-profit and for-profit companies as a marketing, communications and project manager freelancer. She has also served as director of communications and administration for Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation.

The new trustees and board president assume their positions as 42 nonprofit organizations supported by Sheltering Arms' 2016-2017 grants work to meet the needs of at-risk children. The foundation is investing \$455,000 this year in programs that serve Minnesota's most vulnerable children – focusing on direct service programs in early childhood and out-of-school-time youth development, as well as statewide advocacy campaigns designed to improve Minnesota's policies that impact children and their families. Areas served by this year's grantees include Blooming Prairie, Brainerd, Brooklyn Center, Chisholm, Crosby, Duluth, Golden Valley, Hibbing, Hopkins, Mankato, Maplewood, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, New Brighton, Northfield, Pequot Lakes, Pillager, Richfield, Robbinsdale, Rochester, St. Paul, St. Peter, Staples, and White Earth.

The Sheltering Arms Inclusion Statement

The Sheltering Arms Foundation celebrates the diversity of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, physical ability, class, religion and geographic location of the children and families it serves across Minnesota. We seek to create equal access to resources in order to build a just society in which all children may reach their full potential.

About the Sheltering Arms Foundation

The mission of the Sheltering Arms Foundation is to invest in the lives of children and help them reach their full potential. Based in Minneapolis, the foundation funds nonprofit organizations and supports policies that benefit Minnesota children and their families who have the least access to resources. Since its inception as a grantmaking foundation in 1983, the foundation has provided more than 1,100 grants totaling over \$14.7 million. The next deadline for grant applications is in January 2017, with grant applications from Episcopal congregations due on April 1, 2017. For information about submitting a grant request, volunteering, or donating to the foundation, visit <http://sheltering-arms.org> or call 612-871-9210 (toll-free: 866-871-9210).