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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Are You Ready for The Darkest Night of Your Life?

Run/walk to raise awareness of the “4K” homeless youth in Minnesota

WHAT: On any given night, there are 4,000 homeless youth in Minnesota and many of them are in the north metro suburbs including all of Anoka County and parts of Hennepin County. When the darkness of night sets in, these youth are staying in shelters, couch-hopping or sleeping on the streets. HOPE 4 Youth, a nonprofit that provides pathways to end youth homelessness, is raising awareness of the plight of these young people by bringing the community together for the “The Darkest Night of Your Life 4K” to raise money to provide a new response for housing homeless youth in our community called HOPE 4 Youth.

WHEN: **Friday, September 30, 2016; participants choose their wave – 9:30 p.m. or 10:30 p.m.**

WHERE: **Bunker Hills Golf Club**
12800 Bunker Prairie Road NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55448

WHO: The event is open to the public. Early registration fee is \$30 (includes long-sleeve shirt) and on-site registration fee is \$40 (long-sleeve shirt not guaranteed). Individuals and teams are encouraged to challenge each other to see who can earn the title of Top Fundraiser. Register online at www.HOPE4YouthMn.org/4K.

WHY: The 4K run/walk not only raises awareness of homeless youth in our community – participants experience the same feelings of being cold and hungry in the darkness – but also helps them leave their status of homelessness in the past. The funds raised will help bring the first 12 homeless youth “home” to HOPE Place, HOPE 4 Youth’s new transitional housing in Coon Rapids, which is scheduled to open the week of Thanksgiving 2016.

Additional Highlights:

- The 4K course will be on the Bunker Hills Golf Course cart path and luminarias will help light the course, sponsored by ESA Minnesota.
- Sponsorships are available, contact Lisa Jacobson, HOPE 4 Youth’s Executive Director, at ljacobson@hope4youthmn.org.

About HOPE 4 Youth

HOPE 4 Youth, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located in Anoka, Minnesota, serves homeless youth and those at-risk of becoming homeless in the north metro (including all of Anoka County and parts of Hennepin County) by meeting basic needs, as well as helping youth find jobs, finish school, secure housing, and access health and wellness services. The Drop-In Center is open M-F, 2–7p.m. **Mission:** providing pathways to end youth homelessness. **Vision:** that all youth feel safe, valued, and supported while reaching their full potential. This begins with meeting their basic needs and leads to giving them the tools and resources to thrive. For more information, please visit HOPE4YouthMN.org or contact Kristin VanHeel at kvanheel@hope4youthmn.org.

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