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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**HOPE 4 Youth Names Jerry Streich, Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director  
for the City of Andover, to Board of Directors**

**Anoka, MN (August 22, 2016)** – HOPE 4 Youth, a nonprofit organization serving young people experiencing homelessness and those at-risk of becoming homeless, has named Jerry Streich, Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director for the City of Andover, to its Board of Directors. Chief Streich brings more than 28 years of leadership in public safety to the board as well as the perspective of a former young person who experienced homelessness.

“As a young man, my brothers and I faced the sudden divorce of our parents. With my mother trying to raise four boys alone, times got tough and eventually led to the loss of our childhood home which put us into a small hotel room,” Chief Streich explained. “Over time, it grew harder to find food and shelter as my mother become depressed and turned to alcohol. In order to get away from it all, I began to sleep in my car and hop from one friend’s house to another in search of basic needs.” He continued, “Today, that situation is defined as homeless.” Chief Streich worked hard over the years to use that experience to shape his future, “If it were not for the support of several local officials (firefighters, police officers, teachers) and parents of my friends who could see the issue, I may not be who I am today.”

Chief Streich has more than 28 years of experience in public safety, having held every rank in the fire service. Currently, he is the Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director for the City of Andover. He is the founder and Director of the Anoka County Fire Training Academy and past chairman and co-founder of the Anoka County Fire Investigation Team. He is also a Board Member for the Minnesota Fire Service Foundation and acts as the Ceremonies and Protocol Unit Leader for the State’s Fallen Firefighter Memorial on the Capital Grounds. As an Emergency Manager, Streich has assisted with some of the Minnesota’s largest disasters and was deployed to Hurricane Sandy in 2012 – receiving a Certificate of Commendation for his work from Governor Mark Dayton. He loves to learn and works with agencies to improve their organizational leadership and management processes.

“Jerry Streich embodies the spirit of community and brings his experiences, talent, passion and energy to the table. We are very fortunate to have him by our side as we continue to work to end youth homelessness in our area,” said Lisa Jacobson, HOPE 4 Youth’s Executive Director.

“Becoming a Board Member for HOPE 4 Youth is exciting as it will allow me to give back in a way that others did for me,” said Chief Streich. “I look forward to working with a Board of very talented and bright people who can continue to build off the excellent foundation already in place.”

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Chief Streich holds a B.S. in Organizational Leadership/Human Resources, an A.A.S. in Fire Science, and numerous certifications and licenses. He is currently working to publish his first book and has written many articles for publication as well as taught at national conferences (and two countries in Africa). He has been married to his wife, Lori, for 25 years and they have two daughters. In his free time, Chief Streich enjoys outdoor activities including motorcycling and fishing.

**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 Monday – Friday, 2p.m.–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](http://HOPE4YouthMN.org) or contact Kristin VanHeel at [kvanheel@hope4youthmn.org](mailto:kvanheel@hope4youthmn.org).*