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HOPE 4 Youth Names Na'im Madyun, Associate Dean of Undergraduate and Diversity Programs at the University of Minnesota, to Board of Directors

Anoka, MN (August 29, 2016) – HOPE 4 Youth, a nonprofit organization serving young people experiencing homelessness and those at-risk of becoming homeless, has named Na'im Madyun, Associate Dean of Undergraduate and Diversity Programs at the University of Minnesota, to its Board of Directors. Madyun is an accomplished academic who has extensive experience with organizational leadership, policy development and diversity and equity efforts.

Madyun joins the Board of Directors to continue his professional and personal work of supporting opportunities for marginalized populations. Madyun was raised by his mother in a low-income household in the South. In his community, there were not many who expected striving beyond high school. Despite his circumstances, Madyun had the drive to succeed and that he did.

Madyun has been at the University of Minnesota since 1997 when he was a graduate student of Educational Psychology in the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD). He is currently the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Diversity and Equity programs in the CEHD. In his role, Madyun is responsible for the quality of undergraduate programming as well CEHD's presence in diversity and equity efforts. He is also an Associate Professor in the department of Organizational Leadership and Policy Development. His research focuses on opportunity and outcome gaps by integrating social and cultural capital theories in the study of students of color from middle school to college.

"Na'im Madyun brings a unique perspective to the Board of Directors in that he has personally overcome challenges in his life as well as professionally researched the challenges that many young people have faced to understand how we can help them move forward," said Lisa Jacobson, HOPE 4 Youth's Executive Director. "We are fortunate to have his guidance as we work to strategically end youth homelessness in this area."

Madyun currently resides in Ramsey with his wife, Tanshea, and their seven children – six sons and one daughter. All seven children have attended the Anoka-Hennepin School District, the eldest a graduate of Anoka High School.

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 or contact Kristin VanHeel at kvanheel@hope4youthmn.org.*