



The New York Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children Appoints Muna Heaven and Jacqueline Holloway as Interim Leaders

Dr. Mary Pulido, Who Has Led The NYSPCC for 22 Years, to Take Position at World Childhood Foundation USA; The NYSPCC Board Begins Search for New Executive Director

New York, NY (September 14, 2023) – [The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children](#) (The NYSPCC), the U.S.'s oldest child protection agency, has appointed interim leadership. Muna Heaven, Esq., who has served as The NYSPCC's assistant executive director and legal counsel, will become interim executive director, and Jacqueline Holloway, Ph.D., who has served as The NYSPCC's director of research and evaluation, will become interim director of special projects.

Mary Pulido, Ph.D., who has served as The NYSPCC's executive director since 2001, announced she will leave the agency next month to become executive director of the World Childhood Foundation USA. The NYSPCC board of directors has embarked on a comprehensive search for the agency's next executive director.

"We are grateful to Dr. Mary Pulido for her intelligent, thoughtful leadership of and deep commitment to The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and we wish her the best in her new position, where she is certain to carry on her effective work toward the protection of children," said Elizabeth Mayhew, vice president of The NYSPCC board and longtime board member. "We are delighted that Muna Heaven and Dr. Jacqueline Holloway, two of The NYSPCC's most respected professionals and experts, have agreed to share leadership of the agency during the interim period as the board carries out its search for the next executive director, under whom The NYSPCC will continue to build upon and expand its programs and impact."

Heaven, as interim executive director, will oversee finance, development, communications and archives. And Holloway, as interim director of special projects, will oversee research, The NYSPCC Training Institute, clinical services and human resources. Pulido will remain as a resource to the agency during the interim period on an as needed consulting basis.

The NYSPCC's mission is to respond to the complex needs of abused and neglected children, and those involved in their care, by developing and providing best-practice counseling, legal and educational services. The NYSPCC also develops and implements, through its research and training initiatives, programs to prevent the abuse of children. Specific initiatives and services include a world-renowned crisis debriefing program; therapeutic supervised visitation for parent-child interaction that must be supervised by court order; a trauma recovery program that helps with the complex emotional and behavioral challenges that face children who experience abuse and neglect; a training institute that educates thousands of parents, child welfare professionals and school and community organizations on critical issues related to child protection, and Safe Touches, an evidence-based child sex abuse prevention program offered via schools and other organizations.

Said Pulido, "I cherish the 22 years I've spent at The NYSPCC and the difference that our staff and programs have made for thousands and thousands of children, many of whom have faced unimaginable trauma. The NYSPCC is a vitally important organization in the child protection



landscape, and I know and trust that its role will grow, and that it will continue to serve as a model for other organizations around the world with complementary missions. The NYSPCC's team is brilliant and committed and carries out the most difficult and delicate work with unwavering dedication," said Pulido.

About The NYSPCC

The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (The NYSPCC) is one of the most highly respected child protective agencies in the world. Founded in 1875, The NYSPCC helps the most vulnerable children of our community recover from trauma. And, more importantly, it helps prevent child abuse through its work with parents, teachers, children and foster care agencies. The NYSPCC's amazing work is used as a model for child welfare agencies across the nation. The NYSPCC has investigated more than 650,000 cases on behalf of over two million children and has educated over 53,000 professionals working with children on child abuse and neglect issues. Read more about The NYSPCC at <http://www.nyspcc.org/>.

Media contact:

NYSPCC@allisonworldwide.com