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The Center for Urban Community Services Chief Executive Officer to Semiretire

CEO Joseph DeGenova Dedicated 42 Years To NYC's Most Vulnerable Populations, The Last 34 Of Them At The Center For Urban Community Services

NEW YORK, NY – The Center for Urban Community Services (CUCS) announced that Joseph DeGenova will step down from his role as CEO and President of the organization. Joe has worked at CUCS for 34 years and became its second CEO and President in 2020, following the retirement of CUCS' founder, Tony Hannigan. Joe will stay on until the end of the year while the board works to find his replacement.

With DeGenova guiding CUCS during the pandemic, none of its 31 programs for homeless, formerly homeless, and other low-income people ever stopped delivering services. Rather, the organization opened eight new ones, including a stabilization bed program, supportive housing site, drop-in center, Safe Haven, and four Intensive Mobile Treatment teams.

Prior to becoming CEO and President, DeGenova served in a variety of leadership roles with CUCS, starting as the Assistant Program Director in 1989 at CUCS's shelter for homeless women with serious mental illnesses. This shelter set housing placement records and became a model for city-wide replication. DeGenova subsequently served in senior leadership positions in the organization, helping to build CUCS's impact in the field through innovative programming and partnerships. As the Associate Executive Director for fourteen years, DeGenova oversaw its 31 service programs, medical affiliate, Janian Medical Care, and the CUCS Institute, which trains upwards of 15,000 professionals annually across the nation.

"I will be forever grateful for my time at CUCS. I've gotten to work with enormously dedicated and talented people, clients who inspire me with their humanity and resilience, and great partner organizations. We have a very strong board, and I am confident they will find someone to take the organization to new heights. I will do everything I can to ensure a smooth transition to a new CEO, and I look forward to finding employment that is part-time, closer to the actual helping interaction, and that affords me more time and mental bandwidth for non-work related activities" said Joseph DeGenova, CEO and President of CUCS.

"Joe and I worked together at CUCS for over thirty years, creating and leading many of NYC's most innovative and effective programs for disenfranchised people. Year after year, I witnessed Joe's commitment to helping others and his dedication to excellence. He has been an inspiration and guiding light to staff and colleagues and represents the very best in social work," said Tony Hannigan, founder of CUCS.

"I have had the honor of working closely with Joe since he assumed the President and CEO role at CUCS. Joe has helped lead the agency through a national health crisis and ensured that the most vulnerable New Yorkers had a continuum of care and services. Joe's leadership throughout his 34 year career with CUCS is exemplified by quality services, compassionate care, and respect for clients and staff. His legacy will continue to inspire us all to have hope for

a solution to homelessness, to remember that we are all connected in this work, and to find joy in every successful story. As much as we will miss Joe, the mission of CUCS will continue and a search committee of the Board has been formed to lead a national search for our new President and CEO,” said Alex Rose, CUCS Board Chair.

“In 2005, the Project for Psychiatric Outreach to the Homeless, the predecessor of Janian Medical Care, was experiencing the growing pains that small organizations often suffer during expansion. Joe’s management and leadership was indispensable to stabilizing and incorporating the program into CUCS. His guidance and support have helped Janian to flourish. It is seven times bigger than it was in 2005, which means many more people benefit from our care. Janian has expanded to include primary care, street medicine and intensive mobile treatment under Joe’s leadership, which means we can provide different kinds of care. Through it all Joe has modeled integrity and compassion that people eagerly emulate. The culture Joe has nurtured has attracted effective, caring people who improve people’s lives,” said Dr. Van Yu, Janian Medical Care Chief Medical Officer.

About the Center for Urban Community Services

With 650 staff members dedicated to helping individuals and families rise from poverty, exit homelessness, and be healthy all across New York City, CUCS excels at developing affordable housing, and providing programs that link housing, training, healthcare, and social services for homeless, formerly homeless and low-income individuals and families. Every year, 50,000 individuals find support and services with CUCS www.cucs.org.