



On behalf of the Hearth Connection Board of Directors, we are delighted to announce that Richard Hooks Wayman will become Hearth Connection's Executive Director on June 15, 2010. Rich has been the senior youth policy analyst at the National Alliance to End Homelessness since 2006. However, he spent the first fourteen years of his career in Minnesota and is eager to return to contribute to the statewide efforts to end homelessness.

Rich impressed the search committee, the staff and the members of the Board with his strategic insights, his ability to build relationships and engage people, and his commitment to ending homelessness. He will succeed Jennifer Ho who was Hearth Connection's highly respected Executive Director for its first ten years. Jennifer left Hearth Connection in February to become the Deputy Director of the US Interagency Council on Homelessness.

After earning his Law degree with distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law, Rich moved to Minnesota and began his career as a legal aid attorney representing low-income families, single adults and youth. He then became the collaborative director for StreetWorks at Freeport West in Minneapolis. After six years leading this program for homeless and runaway youth, he served as the public policy campaign director for Minnesota Association of Runaway and Homeless Youth Services where he authored and secured enactment of the Minnesota Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. He then moved to Washington DC to begin his four-year tenure at the National Alliance to End Homelessness. Recently, Rich was part of the National Alliance to End Homelessness' policy team that helped advocate and secure funding for key Federal programs that address homelessness, and that was a leading voice for reform of the McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance program to benefit homeless families and unaccompanied youth.

The search committee was impressed with the strength of the pool of candidates for this position. We would like to thank everyone involved in the search process, including the many highly qualified candidates committed to ending homelessness in Minnesota.

We hope you have an opportunity to meet with Rich shortly after he begins on June 15<sup>th</sup>. We believe his passion for our mission and his commitment to collaborative work will bring new energy and momentum to ending homelessness in Minnesota.

George Latimer  
Chair, Hearth Connection

Carol Berde  
Chair, Search Committee