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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Helpline House Hires Interim Executive Director, Launches Search

August 4, 2017 – BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA – Helpline House announced today that it has hired Matt Eldridge as its Interim Executive Director to manage the organization and lead the search for a permanent, new Executive Director. Joanne Tews, its Executive Director for the last 18 years, will be retiring effective August 4.

Most recently, Mr. Eldridge served as Senior Vice President at IslandWood and is a co-founder of investorflow.org, a global network of impact investors. Previously, he had been Interim Executive Director at Salish Sea Expeditions, and has held leadership positions in both nonprofits and for-profit, technology startups.

Ms. Tews will relocate to the Midwest to live closer to her extended family. “Joanne has been a great advocate for the families and individuals who utilize Helpline House’s critical services, and a strong representative of the organization,” said Board President Paulette Peterson. “We appreciate her hard work and dedication to strengthening the organization during her tenure. Thanks to her, we’re well-poised to continue the growth and direction she set. While we will miss her, we wish her a well-earned retirement in closer proximity to family members. We are pleased to have Matt Eldridge manage the organization and lead our search for the next Executive Director.”

“I love the work that Helpline House does, and there has never been a more important time for organizations like Helpline House to help our neighbors through life challenges that can affect us all, from major medical illnesses to unemployment,” said Ms. Tews. “Helpline House is well positioned to meet these needs and adapt to the changing needs of our community.”

The organization is in the process of launching a national search for its next Executive Director. Details will be posted at www.helplinehouse.org.

ABOUT HELPLINE HOUSE

Helpline House is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency that provides a range of social services to Bainbridge Island residents. Founded in 1968 as Fishline, a volunteer emergency aid program, the organization reincorporated as Helpline House in 1973. Initially, the emergency program addressed basic needs via operating a food bank and providing transportation assistance. Helpline House’s services have grown to include information and referral to local, regional and national resources, as well as case management, short term counseling, a food bank, medical equipment lending and limited financial assistance for essential needs. For more information, visit www.helplinehouse.org.

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