



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Mile High United Way names Eddie Koen as Chief Impact Officer**

Denver, CO --- June 12, 2017 – Today, Mile High United Way named Eddie Koen as the organization’s new Chief Impact Officer. Koen is currently Denver Public Schools’ Chief of Staff.

Founded in Denver nearly 130 years ago, Mile High United Way – the first United Way in the country – fights for the education, health, and financial stability for everyone in Metro Denver. In his role as the Chief Impact Officer, Eddie will lead the organization’s programming and investment strategies to maximize impact and drive innovative results-based initiatives in Metro Denver’s most under-resourced communities.

“Mile High United Way is changing the odds for the children, families and individuals in our community, and we are so honored and excited to have Eddie join our team,” said Christine Benero, Mile High United Way President and CEO. “He brings a wealth of expertise and passion, and is a true advocate for the whole community.”

Koen will leave his position at Denver Public Schools and begin his position at Mile High United Way this September.

“Eddie has been an exceptional and deeply valued member of our leadership team at DPS,” said Superintendent Tom Boasberg. “As much as we will miss him here, we will continue to work very closely with him in his new role and know his service at our partner Mile High United Way will be a win for the entire Denver community.”

Koen brings more than 15 years of experience to Mile High United Way, serving the community through many nonprofit leadership roles and advocating for equity, education, and human rights. Just a few of his career highlights include serving as the founding regional executive director for College Track, a nonprofit focused on removing barriers for under-represented students from earning a college degree; co-founder of Konbit Pou Edikayson, an international non-governmental organization focused on education and youth gang prevention in Cité Soleil (Sun City), Haiti; executive director of Charity’s House Ministries in Denver; and deputy director of the Birmingham Division of Youth Services in Alabama.

“Most of my career has been focused on nonprofit work benefitting kids, particularly those who are underserved or under-resourced,” Koen said. “I am very sad to leave DPS, but also very excited about the opportunity with Mile High United Way. DPS is one of Mile High United Way’s most important partners, and I will continue to champion the efforts of Tom Boasberg as he drives to improve equity for our most vulnerable students and pushes us to become the best urban school district in the nation. I am beyond honored to serve as the new Chief Impact Officer for Mile High United Way, and I am committed to improving the lives of children and families across the Denver metro area.”



Eddie currently serves on the board of trustees for The Denver Foundation, where he chairs the Leadership and Equity Committee; the board of directors for Colorado Latino Leadership and Research Organization (CLLARO); the advisory board for National Pre-Law Diversity Initiatives, Inc.; and co-chair of the board for College Track Colorado. Prior service includes the board of directors for Denver Health Community Health Services Board, board of directors for NAACP Denver, the Colorado Forum, 100 Black Men of Denver and commissioner for the Denver Office of Strategic Partnerships.

Recently, Eddie was honored in Atlanta, GA, by the Community Investment Network for his commitment to philanthropy and giving in 2016. He also was given top honors by the Denver Business Journal, Denver Urban Spectrum, ColoradoBiz Magazine, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated and the Urban League of Metro Denver.

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### **About Mile High United Way**

Mile High United Way fights for the education, health, and financial stability in Metro Denver. Our united approach changes the odds for the children, families, and individuals in our community, and moves them out of poverty. We believe every child has the right to a safe and stimulating place to learn, and that when every youth in Metro Denver graduates prepared for college or career, our community is stronger. We also know that when people don't have their most basic needs met, longer-term goals like financial stability, are out of reach. When we work together, we make a lasting, holistic, and sustainable impact on our community. Learn more at <http://www.unitedwaydenver.org/>.