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The Link Hires New Executive Director
Peter Tompkins-Rosenblatt to take over responsibilities of leading the local non-profit

MINNEAPOLIS, November 23, 2009 – The Link, a non-profit dedicated to helping local youth, today announced the hiring of Peter Tompkins-Rosenblatt as executive director. Tompkins-Rosenblatt will replace Deborah Renshaw who successfully served as executive director of The Link since 1997. Renshaw will be retiring at the end of the year after more than 17 years of dedicated service to the organization, having served as a member of the board of directors prior to assuming the position of executive director.

Tompkins-Rosenblatt comes to The Link with more than 25 years of experience working with youth in a number of different capacities ranging from serving as the program director for a large multi-service organization, to working at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Youth Work Learning Center as the director of education. Most recently, Tompkins-Rosenblatt served as senior director of children's services at Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, where he was responsible for the oversight of the division's three main program areas, Northside Child Development Center, Hope Street for Runaway and Homeless Youth and St. Joseph's Home for Children, successfully working with more than 4,000 children, youth and families annually.

"Peter's passion for serving local youth, coupled with his strong professional and personal reputation within the industry, make him the logical choice for this important position, and we are thrilled to welcome him to The Link," said Leonardo Castro, chairman of the board of directors for The Link, "Peter impressed both the board and Link employees with his strong values and commitment to the work we do. I am confident that he will help us continue our positive growth and will prove to be a great asset to our organization."

In his new position, Tompkins-Rosenblatt will work directly with The Link's board of directors and employees to develop and execute the organization's overarching plan and strategy. Tompkins-Rosenblatt will be responsible for leading the operations of The Link's three main programs including: Project Potential, a program dedicated to providing intensive, one-on-one case management for Minneapolis at risk youth; Lindquist Apartments, which provides permanent supportive housing for youth and young adults; and The Juvenile Supervision Center, which provides a safe haven for youth throughout Hennepin County who are picked up for truancy, curfew violations, or low-level juvenile offenses. The Link has an annual budget of \$1.7 million, which is expected to exceed 2 million in 2010, and currently employs 44 staff. The Link served more than 3000 youth and families in 2008.

“I am truly excited to join The Link as executive director. I have always been impressed with their work within the community and think the direction the organization is going with its robust programs is really exciting,” says Tompkins-Rosenblatt. “It’s an honor to be allowed the opportunity to work with an organization that is so dedicated to helping local at-risk and homeless youth in this community and I look forward to continuing the mission.”

Tompkins-Rosenblatt’s official start date is set for the beginning of January 2010.

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Editor’s Note:

For a photo or to schedule an interview please contact Angie Rolle at arolle@webershandwick.com and 952/346-6211.

About The Link

The Link (formerly Professional Sports Linkage when first founded, then Life’s Missing Link) is a non-profit organization started in 1991 by Jim Marshall and Oscar Reed, former Minnesota Vikings. The organization is dedicated to Linking youth, their families and communities to their inner strength by providing life skills, education, advocacy, supporting housing and a dynamic network of social services to transform lives. For more information, go to www.thelinkmn.org.