



MEDIA ADVISORY

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UCAN Board Appoints Tom Vanden Berk as Interim President and CEO

Chicago (Dec. 14, 2020) The UCAN Board of Directors announced the appointment of Thomas C. Vanden Berk as its Interim President and CEO effective December 14, 2020. Mr. Vanden Berk previously served as the President and CEO of UCAN from 1988 to 2016. Departing President and CEO, Zack Schrantz, will remain a senior advisor to UCAN to provide assistance on several strategic initiatives. Additionally, the Board will begin its search for the next President and CEO.

Markell Bridges, Chairman of the Governing Board, said: "After careful consideration and in close consultation with Zack, the Board has determined that now is the right time to make this leadership change to accelerate operational improvements. UCAN is a beacon of hope for the most vulnerable among us. This is why it is imperative that the organization enhance its operational effectiveness. We are grateful to both Tom and Zack for their steadfast dedication to this organization we all love."

Tom Vanden Berk said: "My work for UCAN over the years has been among the most gratifying work of my life. During this interim period, I am committed to helping this organization position itself for an even brighter future."

Founded 151 years ago as a Civil War orphanage, UCAN now serves more than 4,400 at-risk youth and families and impacts more than 14,000 youth and families across Illinois. Over the past several months of the COVID-19 pandemic, UCAN has been an essential provider of important services. UCAN's direct service and front-line employees have safely provided services to 1,500 youth in its clinical counseling and youth development programs, violence intervention and prevention services and youth athletic activities. In collaboration with a community partner, UCAN has provided 2,400 boxes of food and emergency funding for individuals and families.