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Reach Out and Read Announces Leadership Transition at National Center

Longtime Management Team Member Brian Gallagher Named Organization's Acting Executive Director

Boston, MA (January 24, 2014) – Brian Gallagher, most recently Reach Out and Read's Director of National Programs, has been named Acting Executive Director of the Boston-based early literacy nonprofit. Gallagher has been with Reach Out and Read for seven years, serving in multiple capacities.

"I'm committed to working closely with our national Board of Directors and our staff to help implement organizational strategy during this period of transition at Reach Out and Read," said Gallagher. "Most importantly, I will focus on continuing to support our network of medical providers who every day deliver Reach Out and Read's high-quality literacy intervention, serving millions of children and families nationwide."

Gallagher replaces Anne-Marie Fitzgerald, who leaves Reach Out and Read after 13 years to join the staff of Facing History and Ourselves, as Chief Officer for Regional Operations.

"When I arrived at Reach Out and Read in 2001, we were serving 400,000 children each year," said Fitzgerald. "Now, we serve 4 million annually. I am so proud of what the organization has accomplished during my time here, and I am grateful that I had a chance to be part of this period of tremendous growth for Reach Out and Read."

Reach Out and Read is the evidence-based, national nonprofit organization that promotes early literacy and school readiness by giving new books to children and advice to parents about the importance of reading aloud at regular pediatric checkups. The model includes providing a new, age-appropriate book for each child to take home at checkups from 6 months through 5 years.

Nationwide, Reach Out and Read doctors and nurses serve 4 million children and their families annually at 5,000 hospitals, clinics, and health centers in all 50 states, with a focus on centers that serve low-income communities.

For more information on Reach Out and Read, please visit www.reachoutandread.org

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