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REACH OUT AND READ EXPANDS EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM TO ACCELERATE NATIONAL GROWTH AND IMPACT

Michelle Noth McCready named Deputy CEO; Feargus Leggett joins as Chief Financial and Administrative Officer

BOSTON (April 30, 2026) – As it continues to grow its impact at the intersection of pediatric care and early childhood development, national nonprofit [Reach Out and Read](#) is strengthening its team with the addition of two seasoned leaders: Michelle Noth McCready as Deputy CEO and Feargus Leggett as Chief Financial and Administrative Officer.

These appointments come at an important moment for Reach Out and Read, as the organization evolves its leadership structure to support continued growth, strengthen collaboration across its national network, and reach more children and families nationwide. As part of this evolution, the nonprofit is establishing a new Executive Team to support stronger alignment, clear decision-making, and shared leadership across the organization.

“Reach Out and Read is at an inflection point, as we work to expand our reach while staying grounded in the relationships that drive our impact,” said Dr. Lynette Fraga, Reach Out and Read CEO. “We have a responsibility to build a team that reflects the growth, complexity, and ambition of Reach Out and Read today — and who we are becoming. With the addition of Michelle and Feargus, our leadership brings the experience, perspective, and expertise we need to do that well.”

In addition to Fraga, McCready, and Leggett, the Executive Team includes Chief Advancement and Strategy Officer Erin Henry. Henry assumed the new role after nearly seven years as Chief Development Officer, during which she led the team that nearly tripled overall philanthropic revenue, growing the organization’s budget from \$11M to \$30M.

As Deputy CEO, McCready will support enterprise leadership and alignment of staff, systems, and resources, working across teams to manage change, translate strategy into action, and strengthen outcomes. She most recently served as Founding Executive Director of Wisconsin Appleseed, where she helped launch a center focused on advancing equity and opportunity through policy and systems change. Prior to that, she served as Deputy Chief Executive Officer at Child Care Aware of America, where she led national strategy, philanthropy, federal

partnerships, and large-scale organizational transformation, including securing more than \$50 million in funding and expanding the organization's national reach.

"At its core, Reach Out and Read is about supporting families in simple, meaningful ways that have lasting impact," McCready said. "I'm excited to build on that work, partnering across the network to strengthen and scale the program, align the systems that support it, and expand access so more children have the opportunity to thrive."

As Chief Financial and Administrative Officer, Leggett will design fiscal frameworks, increase operational efficiencies, and optimize resources to advance the organization's commitment to children and families. He brings more than 18 years of experience across nonprofit finance, operations, and technology. Prior to joining Reach Out and Read, Leggett spent more than a decade as the Chief Financial Officer at international nonprofit Girls Who Code, overseeing a \$25 million operating budget and a \$65 million investment portfolio, while also managing key operational areas, including technology, legal, and data systems.

"Reach Out and Read has built a model that is both highly effective and deeply impactful, turning the well-child visit into an opportunity for connection and learning," Leggett said. "My focus is ensuring the systems behind that work are just as strong, so the organization can grow thoughtfully and sustainably, serve more families, and deliver on its full potential."

For more than 35 years, Reach Out and Read has worked to ensure all families have the tools and support they need to build strong, nurturing relationships with their young children, starting at birth. Through its model, clinicians integrate books and shared reading guidance into routine pediatric care, helping support early brain development, strengthen caregiver-child relationships, and lay the foundation for lifelong learning.

In FY25, Reach Out and Read reached 4.8 million children across 11.2 million well-child visits nationwide.

"This is about building the kind of organization that can help define what families should expect from pediatric care," Fraga said. "With the right leadership in place, we can ensure more families experience care that supports connection, development, and early learning from the very beginning."

To learn more about the nonprofit, visit ReachOutandRead.org.

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About Reach Out and Read: As a 501(c)3 nonprofit, Reach Out and Read leverages the near-universal reach of the pediatric well-child visit to support caregivers in fostering healthy relationships with their young children through shared reading. In FY25, Reach Out and Read served more than 4.8 million children and provided 9 million free books across 11.2 million well-child visits. Around 70 percent of the children Reach Out and Read serves are from low-income families. The only national pediatric literacy model endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, Reach Out and Read serves children in every state across the U.S.