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Wanda B. Darrah Elected Chair of KidsPeace Georgia Board of Associates

BOWDON, GA (November 10, 2020) - KidsPeace Georgia announced that **Wanda B. Darrah** has been elected chair of its Board of Associates, the volunteer group connecting the west Georgia community with the KidsPeace operations in Bowdon.

Mrs. Darrah joined the Georgia Board of Associates in 2018, and has spearheaded efforts to obtain supplies and support to ensure the needs of the young people at the facility were being met. She will succeed Jason Norton of Norton Financial Services as chair in January 2021.

“Almost from the moment I first heard about KidsPeace, I felt I could help in some way. I lived 45 minutes away and had no idea KidsPeace existed! Just finding out what these children have experienced, through no fault of their own and at such tender ages, breaks my heart. I just could not sit idly by and know about them and do nothing,” she said. “Jason Norton and those who came before him have set a very high standard of leadership on our Board of Associates. I feel so humbled to be chosen to continue their legacy,” Mrs. Darrah added.

“My goal is to engage all BOA members to support the needs of the campus and help grow knowledge and support of KidsPeace throughout the State of Georgia. To be part of a child becoming whole as they go from victim to survivor through Hope, Help and Healing is unlike anything else you will ever experience. These children ARE our future!”

Mrs. Darrah holds a master’s degree in finance from Oklahoma State University, and served for more than thirty years in executive roles in the manufacturing and financial payments industries. Following her retirement she brought her management expertise and wide-ranging experience to volunteer work at a number of non-profit human services organizations and industry associations, including KidsPeace.

In addition to her business and volunteer background, Wanda is a published poet and songwriter. She and her husband of 43 years, David, have three adult children, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. They live in Villa Rica, GA.

“KidsPeace Georgia is so fortunate to have one outstanding Board of Associates chair succeeded by another,” said Executive Director Louis Shagawat. “Jason Norton’s leadership and contributions to our mission have taken our organization to a new level, and we are grateful to Jason for his enthusiasm and attention to detail,” he said.

“Now we are excited to have Wanda take the reins. She is a hands-on, visible leader who understands our mission, and who has come to personally know and form relationships with many of our kids and staff. We know Wanda to be an unstoppable force and dear friend of KidsPeace Georgia, and we are confident that with her energy, wisdom and creativity, she will lead our BOA to new and impactful accomplishments during her time as chair,” Shagawat said.

The KidsPeace Bowdon (GA) Campus offers a comprehensive array of residential treatment services to address the social, emotional, physical, educational and spiritual needs of youth age 12 to 17. The campus sits on 25 acres approximately one hour west of Atlanta. Recreational facilities offer youth the opportunity for healing, growth and fun, including a ropes course, a climbing wall, a swimming pool, and gymnasium. An award-winning accredited school meets the specialized educational needs of each child at the campus.

Since 1882, KidsPeace has been building on its expertise to give hope, help and healing to children, adults and those who love them. Through its comprehensive range of residential treatment programs; accredited educational services; unique psychiatric hospital and foster care and community-based programs, KidsPeace is dedicated to helping people connect, transform and overcome their challenges to ensure a stable future, transition to adulthood and gain independence. Since its doors opened, nearly 300,000 children have participated in one of the multitude of programs KidsPeace offers.

For additional resources or more information on how to get involved, become a foster parent or make a donation, please visit www.kidspeace.org. Follow us at www.facebook.com/kidspeace.org or on Twitter @KidsPeace.

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