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The Children's Heart Foundation Michigan Chapter Welcomes New President

Melonie Stothers, a Troy resident, transitions into the role of CHF MI Chapter President

Detroit, MI (January 7, 2016) – The Children's Heart Foundation (CHF) is the country's leading organization solely committed to funding congenital heart research. Congenital heart defects (CHD) are the most common birth defect in the U.S., affecting approximately 1 in 100 births. The Michigan Chapter of The Children's Heart Foundation is excited to announce their new President, Melonie Stothers, effective January 1, 2016.

Stothers, a Troy resident and long-time Board Member, says she's looking forward to leading the chapter into its next phase of development and outreach. "I am honored to have been chosen by the Board to lead CHF Michigan into its next phase of growth", said Stothers. "We have a great group of people excited to bring for new projects and fundraising to the community and 2016 promises to be a wonderful year for CHF!"

The Chapter's Founder, Sally Powers, has transitioned into the role of Immediate Past President and will continue to serve on CHF's National Executive Committee and Board of Directors. "It's been a privilege working with so many amazing people in our CHD community, local organizations, businesses, and hospitals—all who have given their time, passion and resources to help fund life-saving CHD research," said Powers. "I'm grateful to everyone who has supported our mission over the years, and I look forward to continuing to work with the organization as we strive to provide a more hopeful future for families impacted by congenital heart defects."

Under Powers' leadership, the chapter formed in 2010 and was registered as a 501C3 nonprofit in the state of Michigan in 2012. Powers also spearheaded "The Congenital Heart Walk of SE Michigan" in 2011, which has grown into the country's top fundraising Congenital Heart Walk, having raised over \$437,600 in the fight against congenital heart disease.

Stothers plans to continue to grow the chapter in new and meaningful ways. Stothers stated: "CHF is not just a charity doing great work for the medical community; it brings hope to families across the globe - families like my own. In 2013, after my then four-year-old had survived three open-heart surgeries and seven heart catheterizations, we were told there was nothing left to help her failing heart. Science had not come far enough. Through the work of CHF, I hope to fund research that will end the need for any parent to have that conversation."

For more information about The Children's Heart Foundation Michigan Chapter, visit <http://michigan.childrensheartfoundation.org> or www.facebook.com/CHFMI. To find out how you can get involved, email chfmi@childrensheartfoundation.org.

Please note The Children's Heart Foundation Michigan Chapter has a new address and telephone number:

The Children's Heart Foundation Michigan Chapter
P.O. Box 1808
Troy, Michigan 48099
(248) 385-2430

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About The Children's Heart Foundation

Established by Betsy Peterson in 1996, The Children's Heart Foundation (CHF) is the country's leading national organization solely committed to congenital heart research funding. Since 1996, CHF has funded leading edge congenital heart defect research across the U.S. and Canada. CHF is a national 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization that does not receive any government funding. The goal of the foundation is to bring health, hope and happiness to children and families impacted by congenital heart defects, the most common birth defect in the United States. This objective is accomplished by funding the most promising research to advance the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of congenital heart defects. For more information, please visit: www.childrensheartfoundation.org.