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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Indiana Youth Group Names Chris Paulsen as New Executive Director

July 20, 2017 – Indiana Youth Group announced Chris Paulsen as its new executive director. She is filling the position left by the retirement of previous Executive Director Mary Byrne. Paulsen has more than 25 years of leadership experience. She dedicated the previous two years to advocating for LGBTQ+ civil rights as the former campaign manager of Freedom Indiana. She led the campaign to fight for statewide non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ+ Hoosiers in her role at Freedom Indiana. Paulsen is a graduate of Indiana University Southeast, with a Master of Business Administration and Hanover College, with a Bachelor's of Arts in Business. Paulsen has a history of community volunteering and leadership as she has served on Freedom Indiana and Indiana Equality Action Boards of Directors, volunteered with Southside Quality of Life Plan, Habitat for Humanity, and most recently served as a very hands-on Honorary Co-Chair for Indiana Youth Group's Capital Campaign.

Indiana Youth Group Board President, Vanessa Enos stated, "The Board of Directors is proud of the development and progress IYG has made in recent years. We are confident Chris has the necessary knowledge and skills to continue the momentum to move IYG to the next level in this unprecedented time of growth and change. Chris is bringing IYG valuable corporate leadership, fundraising, and public advocacy experience to our LGBTQ+ youth. We are excited to see where IYG will grow from here."

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IYG Names Chris Paulsen aNew Executive Director/Add One

As the new executive director, Paulsen will be responsible for the oversight and development of Indiana Youth Group's operations. She will continue to grow IYG's presence in the community. Paulsen will be responsible for upholding IYG's mission to insure safe spaces exist for all LGBTQ+ youth. She will be spearheading IYG's move into a new more public and accessible location. Paulsen will be driving the next phase of strategic growth for IYG.

Chris Paulsen feels well equipped for her new role, "I am very excited to have the honor of leading the team at Indiana Youth Group in the excellent work they do to support our LGBTQ+ youth in Indiana."

Chris and her wife Deanna like to spend their spare time with friends and family. Chris says, "We gather strength from the great support our friends and family have offered over the 19 years we have been a family." Chris and Deanna are season ticket holders of the Indiana Fever and enjoy the many cultural opportunities that Indianapolis offers.

Indiana Youth Group is one of the largest LGBTQ+ youth centers of its kind across the country. It is unique in that it is a stand-alone organization serving LGBTQ+ youth and the community rather than being a division or arm of a larger umbrella organization. Therefore, through collaboration and partnership with other youth-serving organizations, IYG is able to serve as a one-stop-shop for our youth. IYG exists to empower young people through wellness initiatives, social engagement, leadership opportunities, family support, and educational programming. IYG works closely with medical and mental health organizations throughout the state, more than 90 LGBTQ+ affirming clubs inside Indiana schools and dozens of LGBTQ+ Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) at Indianapolis corporations, who provide financial and volunteer contributions.

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