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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, Mar 7, 2024

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### **On The Rise announces five new board members**

CAMBRIDGE, MA (February 5, 2024) – On The Rise, a Cambridge-based day shelter for women and transgender/nonbinary individuals experiencing and recovering from homelessness, announced the addition of five new board members in 2023: Marcus de Castro, Susan Hooper, Joseph Sherman, Eileen Thompson, and Jennie Weiner.



*Marcus de Castro*

Marcus de Castro is a seasoned construction and development professional currently serving as a Project Manager at Boylston Properties. With a background in MEP engineering and project management at firms including Turner Construction Company and E.M. Duggan, Inc., Marcus has successfully overseen multimillion-dollar projects, from pharmaceutical lab buildings to high-rise office spaces. As a co-founder of CdCM Group, LLC, Marcus demonstrates his entrepreneurial spirit by spearheading real estate development ventures.



*Susan Hooper*

Susan E. Hooper, LICSW, is an experienced social worker with a passion for addressing critical housing needs and supporting vulnerable populations. She holds a Master of Social Work from Simmons College Graduate School of Social Work and a B.A. in Psychology from Dartmouth College. Susan served as the Program Manager at Emmaus Inc., where she oversaw the Coordinated Entry Program and the Emergency Housing Voucher program, ensuring efficient and collaborative functioning of the system. She has also worked as a School Social Worker at Reading Memorial High School and as a Guidance Counselor/School Social Worker at Ottoson Middle School, providing counseling, creating safety plans, and collaborating with stakeholders. Susan previously worked at On The Rise as a Community Advocate, giving her a unique relationship to the organization. With three decades of diverse experience in the social work field, Susan Hooper has demonstrated a deep understanding of the needs of individuals and communities, along with the ability to develop and implement effective interventions.



*Joseph Sherman*

Joseph Sherman is a passionate advocate for housing rights in Massachusetts, leveraging his legal expertise to champion access to justice for all. With a focus on eviction defense and public housing issues, he serves as a staff attorney at MetroWest Legal Services, where he also leads as Chairperson of MetroWest Legal Service Workers United. Joseph's commitment to learning

and results-driven approach shines through in his role, ensuring vulnerable populations receive the legal support they deserve.



*Eileen Thompson*

Eileen Thompson, LICSW, is a licensed clinical social worker with extensive experience in university counseling services and college counseling centers. Most recently, she was a staff social worker at Boston College, providing individual and group therapy services to undergraduate and graduate students. Prior, she served as the Director at the College Counseling Center at Wheelock College, where she managed administrative and clinical staff, provided counseling services, and oversaw clinical training internships. Eileen has a diverse clinical background, having worked at The Family Center, Inc. as a Senior Clinical Staff Social Worker and at various other institutions. She holds a Master of Social Work degree from Smith College School for Social Work and has presented on cross-cultural adoption issues at conferences and community events. Eileen is an active member of professional associations and has a strong commitment to supporting the mental health and well-being of all community members.



*Jennie Weiner*

Jennie Weiner is an accomplished educator and researcher in the field of Educational Leadership. She holds an EdD in Educational Policy, Leadership, and Instructional Practice from

the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where she conducted research on instructional leadership teams. Currently, she serves as an Associate Professor of Educational Leadership at the Neag School of Education, University of Connecticut. With extensive teaching experience, Jennie has held positions as a Visiting Associate Professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and as an Assistant Professor at the Neag School of Education. Her research focuses on various aspects of school leadership, including the experiences of Black female principals, the role of principals during the COVID-19 crisis, and the professionalism of school leaders. Jennie has published numerous articles in reputable journals, showcasing her expertise in the field. Her work contributes to the understanding of educational leadership and aims to improve educational practices and policies.

On The Rise Executive Director Delphene Mooney expressed gratitude for these skilled individuals' willingness to serve the organization. "I am excited to welcome these three incredibly experienced and compassionate individuals to our board. All have shown deep commitment to On The Rise, and their professional expertise will be a welcome addition to our Board of Directors," she said.

#### About On The Rise

On The Rise's work begins with individuals experiencing homelessness, and continues when they secure housing. From our origin as a women's organization, our programs have evolved toward inclusion of those historically and structurally oppressed on the basis of gender.

For those with the fewest options, we cultivate long-term relationships that foster safety and belonging. Guided by the strength and initiative of our program participants, we join their journey to wellbeing, as skilled partners and advocates.

Throughout this journey, we engage with the people, programs and systems that most affect our participants, working to build a society that nourishes their wellbeing.