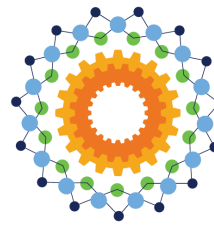


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**FOR RELEASE ON: Tuesday, May 4, 2021**

## **SAKURA TAKANO NAMED CEO OF ROTARY CHARITIES OF TRAVERSE CITY**

[Traverse City, MI, May 4, 2021] Rotary Charities of Traverse City announced today that Sakura Takano has been selected as their new CEO. A national search coordinated by Kate Greene of Traverse City HR firm Human Resource Partners and a Search Committee of Rotary Charities Board Members and Rotary Club members produced nearly 50 applicants. Takano's broad experience, community leadership, and vision for the future of the organization solidified her selection, with a unanimous vote of support by the board.

"On behalf of the entire board of directors at Rotary Charities, I can tell you that the excitement is very high as we anticipate the beginning of Sakura's tenure as CEO of this organization. Sakura brings a wonderful skill set to the organization that will allow it to continue to fine tune its impact on our communities," said Jeff Hickman, board chair.

An experienced leader with strong community relationships, Takano will succeed Becky Ewing, who announced her plan to retire last fall, following three years of service as Executive Director of Rotary Charities and nearly 14 years with the organization.

"I have loved my time at Rotary Charities and couldn't have asked for a better capstone to my career. It is a beautiful organization, with a strong staff and engaged board that believe in the collective power of our region to make positive change for everyone. We've learned a great deal about how a group of committed folks can begin to shift outcomes in complex problems; change is hard, but we can do hard things. Sakura is going to take the organization to the next level and I am excited to see what she will make possible," said Ewing. See [February 1, 2021 press release](#) for more information about Ewing's retirement.

Takano came to Rotary Charities in September of 2019 as the Director of Community Assets and Impact Investing and brings a deep understanding of systems change and commitment to Rotary Charities' trust-based philanthropic model to her new role as CEO. In the midst of a global pandemic and political, social, and racial unrest, she led internal organizational work with a steady, open-minded, and action-oriented leadership style to better help and adapt to changemakers' and nonprofits' needs. With collaboration at the heart of her workstyle, Takano has convened strategic roundtable discussions throughout the pandemic, resulting in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Early Childhood Education resource alignment, as well as an Impact Investing Crosstalk among philanthropic partners, and a 5-county Rural Community Development roundtable. In each of these spaces, Rotary Charities has been represented with Takano taking on a role of convener, collaborator, and resource-sharer.

"I'm thrilled and honored to lead Rotary Charities as we begin our next chapter, adapting our resources to address community issues post-Covid-19. I believe that we will come together with a renewed sense of connection and stronger relationships in our communities. I'm looking forward to working alongside our

growing ecosystem of diverse changemakers working on complex problems, shifting old outcomes for everyone, to create a more thriving region,” said Takano.

Takano holds an MBA in Social Enterprise from Columbia Business School and a BS in Finance and Economics from Boston College. Prior to joining the team at Rotary Charities, she spent seven years at Goodwill of Northern Michigan as Director of Workforce Development and then Director of Housing, where she implemented a systems approach to increase access to homeless services and housing opportunities in Northern Michigan, and created strategies connecting housing stability to health and income outcomes.

About Rotary Charities:

Following the 1976 discovery of oil and natural gas reserves on property owned by the Traverse City Rotary Club, Rotary Charities of Traverse City was established to providing funding, connections and learning opportunities to changemakers in Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Benzie, Kalkaska and Antrim counties. Since that time, more than \$63 million in grants have been awarded. Today, Rotary Charities is known for embracing innovation in service of tackling complex problems and creating accessible assets for all, in support of its vision of a region that is fair, thriving and resilient. In recent years, Rotary Charities has evolved from a traditional grantmaking organization to a regional changemaking organization. This requires innovative grantmaking, impact investing, and capacity building strategies, as well as effective internal structures to support the work. To learn more visit [rotarycharities.org](http://rotarycharities.org)

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