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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Hively appoints permanent CEO and Director of Community Services & Education

[Pleasanton, CA] – Hively is pleased to welcome Mary Hekl as the new Chief Executive Officer and Candida “Candy” Duperroir as the new Director of Community Services & Education.

Ms. Hekl, appointed to the permanent role after five months as Interim CEO, brings with her 20 years of experience leading people-focused HR teams, primarily at Google, then at Ellie Mae and Zymergen. She also served on the Hively Board of Directors for four years and served for one year as its Board Chair.

Current Hively Board Chairman, Ryan Duncan Anderson, announced: “After an extensive search, I have the pleasure to announce Mary Hekl as the new CEO of Hively. Mary brings a unique set of skills as an expert in HR from her days at Google and familiarity with the organization from her previous term as Board Chair. As interim CEO these past months, she has exhibited creativity and a strategic orientation that we believe will help us expand Hively’s mission into the future. We look forward to her leadership and determination as we continue to provide resources and support to ensure that everyone in the community can thrive.”

Recently, Ms. Hekl began a Masters of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University with a focus on mental health. She also holds an MBA from the University of Michigan and a BA from Tulane University.

Hekl elaborated on her goals for Hively’s future: “I am thrilled to lead the Hively team as we work to expand our core services in three distinct areas. First - greatly increase the number of families and providers that we help with services such as child care subsidies, educational programs and referrals to essential services that allow families to thrive. Second - continue to support Tri-Valley residents with food, clothing, housewares and other items through our Hively Family Resource Center in Dublin. Third - become a leading provider of mental health services beyond our current San Leandro location by adding Tri-Valley and Oakland as well as pilot creative ways to improve mental health. The ultimate goal is to increase access, availability and affordability of mental health services and resources.”

Starting July 1st, Candida "Candy" Duperroir officially joins the Hively team as the new *Director of Community Services & Education*. She brings with her 23 years of experience at sister organization CocoKids, which offers Child Care Resource & Referral services in Contra Costa county. In addition, Ms. Duperroir worked as the county organizer for the national grassroots organization, *Parent Voices*, becoming a leading advocate for access to child care, housing, and employment services.

Said CEO Hekl, "Hively is thrilled to welcome Candy to the team! She brings vast experience in Child Care Resource & Referral for parents searching for child care and other needed services. She is an active parent advocate and an educator for Child Care providers and the Early Learning Education system. As one of our government partners recently exclaimed, 'What a HUGE gain for our county and for Hively!' Candy's impact will be felt immediately by Alameda County parents and providers."

Duperroir identified Hively as a unique non-profit, one that combines child care and mental health services for maximum impact in the community. She outlined her three-pronged approach. "First, I would like to build trusted relationships with the Hively Team and Board of Directors to advance quality, affordable and accessible child care for all families and child care providers. Second, I would like to advance the My Child Care Plan (MCCP) database to expand online services for families and providers. Third, I would like to elevate the voices of families, providers, Child Care Resource & Referral agencies and Alternative Payment Program providers so they can be the change agents, those who not only implement but also influence the policies and regulations that enable all families with equitable access to child care and education."

Hively, derived from 'lively' and 'hive', is a thriving community full of life and energy. Hively's mission is to strengthen Alameda County families so that everyone in our community can thrive. Hively supports local families through child care stipends and referrals, parent education classes, and family classes, in addition to clinical mental health services and daily essentials such as food, diapers, and clothing. This past year, we served over 2,000 local families and children seeking child care referrals and served 975 child care providers. We are fueled by our passion for strengthening thousands of families, regardless of ability to pay. While the pandemic threatened the very existence of many child care businesses, we were ready to answer this challenge by offering extra support to child care providers and local families, from masks and gloves to additional subsidies. California Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan recognized our outstanding work during the pandemic and awarded Hively with a California *Nonprofit-of-the-Year* Award in 2020.

For more details, contact [Karen Brace](#) at (925) 417-8733 or email [hello@behively.org](mailto:hello@behively.org) for more information.

*Headquartered in Pleasanton, California, Hively provides holistic support and services to strengthen families by providing child care subsidies for CalWORKs recipients; parent education classes to support healthy home environments; and family-strengthening classes to support the parent-child bond. In addition, Hively has affordable mental health services on a sliding-fee scale; and provides economic support through the Hively Family Resource Center, which provides free food, diapers, clothing, shoes, and other basic necessities to families in need.*



CEO, Mary Hekl



Director of Community Services & Education, Candida "Candy" Duperroir