



**northwestern
settlement**

OPENING DOORS TO BETTER FUTURES

Dear Friends of the Settlement,

It is with a grateful and excited heart that I am sharing some important news with you today. After consultation with the Settlement Board of Directors over the past year, I would like to announce my plan to step down as president of Northwestern Settlement. I will continue to work diligently in the coming months with you all in my current role and want to assure you that I am committed to making this transition of leadership as smooth as possible. Currently, my plan is to continue on as president through the end of the fiscal year, estimating my departure sometime in June 2021 or upon selection of a successor.

After 40 years working for the Settlement, I am able to see the many changes and accomplishments we have made as an organization. Together, we have done so much and I would like to name a few:

In 1991, the Settlement purchased Walsh's Hall, creating much needed space to expand our programming as well as space for the back office in the new Evanston Hall.

In 1999, Northwestern Settlement co-founded Noble Street Charter School. As Noble Street replicated, I assumed the role of President for the Noble Network of Charter Schools in 2005, where I was responsible for the administration, fundraising, governance, and financial oversight for this \$55 million organization. In 2009, I stepped down from leadership of the Noble Network to found Rowe Elementary School.

Rowe Elementary School opened in September 2009 with 150 scholars in Kindergarten through 2nd grade. Rowe expanded by four classrooms in each grade level annually, until we reached full K-8 status with 1,030 scholars.

In 2013, the Head Start program, now Early Childhood Education, grew once again with substantial support from longtime donors to extend the program on our second floor. This expansion greatly increased the Settlement's capacity for early learning. As a result, Head Start transitioned from a half-day schedule during the school year to a full-day year-round program.

In 2017, the Family CARES mental health center opened its doors through a partnership with Children's Home and Aid to provide free, bilingual on-site mental health counseling and family wellness services to the members of the Settlement community.

During all of this we celebrated a momentous 125 years of service to our community. The Settlement established a committee in 2014 to conduct a major capital campaign to complete the operational startup of Rowe Elementary School, build a new middle school, update current buildings and add several new facilities at House In The Wood, and complete needed renovations to the original Settlement House. This not only set the stage for expansion of programming, but created stable footing for the next 125 years to come.

We will continue to work together and build upon the solid foundation that our board, partners, and leadership team have created. We will continue to advance our work through the development of best-in-class knowledge, networking opportunities, and pragmatic solutions, while increasing our voice and influence on the issues important to our field and sector.

The board will be establishing a search committee for my replacement, led by Chair Amy O'Donnell. Joining Amy on the search committee are other board members that have known me for many years and have a deep understanding of the Settlement and most importantly commitment to our children and families. There will be a process developed that will allow input from staff program leadership and other stakeholders.

Nonprofit work and dedication to improving life outcomes for families has been a lifelong commitment. So, while I look forward to retiring and spending more time with my three beautiful grandchildren, I will continue to aid the human services field as best I can even after leaving the Settlement.

We will have many opportunities over the coming months to talk. As always, my door is open. I look forward to the coming months and opportunities to work together.

I am eternally grateful to have spent the past forty years serving this community with the most dedicated, innovative and caring staff, board of directors, and supporters. Reflecting on these accomplishments, I know that it happened because of the extraordinary staff, leadership and families at Settlement. I have complete faith in the program leadership in place from Rowe to Head Start, Afterschool, AmeriCorps, House In The Wood, Vittum Theater, Emergency Services, Family Cares, Business Office and Operations. Thank you for your commitment and for making the mission of Northwestern Settlement a reality. My heart will always belong to the Settlement, as I have spent almost my entire career dedicated to our mission and all of the children and families that have passed through the Settlement doors.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ron Manderschied', enclosed within a large, loopy circular flourish.

Ron Manderschied
President