



79 Maple Street | Summit, NJ | 908-273-4242
TheConnectionOnline.org

For immediate release: September 29, 2015

Following a comprehensive six month search, The Board of Trustees of The Connection for Women and Families is pleased to announce the appointment of Wendy Graeb as the organization's new Executive Director, effective January 1, 2016.

"Wendy's unique mix of non-profit expertise, knowledge of the Summit area community and her passion for the mission of The Connection make her the ideal leader for our organization going forward," commented Virginia Cepeda, Chairwoman of The Connection Board of Trustees and Chair of the Executive Director Search Committee.

Ms. Graeb comes to The Connection with more than 25 years of success in non-profit management, fund development and strategic planning. She most recently served as Vice President at Graham Pelton Consulting, a global fundraising and non-profit management consulting firm, where she provided senior consulting services to non-profits throughout the country including financial development, board and volunteer recruitment, governance, management, and short and long range planning. Prior to her work at Graham Pelton, Ms. Graeb was an independent consultant for seven years serving area non-profits. She began her non-profit career in fund development, serving as Director of Development at Seton Hall University and Director of Alumni Affairs and Alumni Fund at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

In addition to her professional experience, Ms. Graeb has been an exceptional leader in Summit's volunteer community. She has served as the Board Chairperson or President of numerous organizations including the Summit High School PTO, Summit Middle School PTO, Summit Free Public Library, Senior Connections Bus Service, the Junior League of Summit and The Connection for Women and Families. Ms. Graeb has also served on the Board of Trustees of the Summit Area Public Foundation and was the recipient of the Junior League's Jean Hudson Gano Community Service Award in 2000.

"I am honored to be joining an organization that has such an incredible legacy of serving the greater Summit community," Ms. Graeb said. "And I look forward to helping with its continued growth and success."

On Friday December 4th, The Connection will host a "Hail and Farewell" celebration to welcome Wendy Graeb as the new Executive Director and to express gratitude for the many accomplishments of Peggy McHugh Hagen, as she retires after 25 years as Executive Director. The event, a cocktail reception from 6:30 – 9:00pm will be held at The Connection and all proceeds will benefit The Connection's Community Service and Scholarship Fund. For more information, contact jayne.graepel@theconnectiononline.org.