



For Immediate Release

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LOCAL BUSINESS AND CIVIC LEADERS JOIN INTERFACE CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES' BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CAMARILLO, CA – December 16, 2016 – Interface Children & Family Services, the most comprehensive non-profit social services safety net serving Ventura County and the surrounding community, announced the appointment of three new members to the organization's Board of Directors:



Peter Gould is a managing director of banking at Abbot Downing, located in Los Angeles, overseeing banking and lending for families of significant wealth. He has worked in the banking industry for over 25 years and has held senior positions at Wells Fargo, Citibank, Bank of America and Banc of America Securities. Peter earned his bachelor's degree in astrophysics from Wesleyan University in Connecticut.

Peter is a former board member for Westlake Agoura Girls Softball and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Long Beach. He lives in Agoura Hills with his wife Elizabeth and their two teenage children - all are longtime supporters of Interface.



Manuel "Manny" Minjares has been an elected member of the Fillmore City Council since 2012. He is Housing Director for Turning Point Foundation, a non-profit organization that supports adults facing mental illness. Manny previously worked for Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation and the City of Fillmore. He earned his bachelor's degree in urban studies and planning from California State University – Northridge.

Manny lives in Fillmore with his wife and three children.



Blaise R. Simqu is the President and Chief Executive Officer of SAGE Publications located in Thousand Oaks. He has been part of the SAGE organization for more than 20 years, holding positions from Editor to Vice President to Executive Vice President. Blaise earned his B.A. from Loyola Marymount University and an M.A. from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Blaise also serves on the Board of Directors for California State University, Channel Islands and Teach for America in Los Angeles. He is an emeritus member of the Board of Trustees for The Buckley School in Sherman Oaks.

“The addition of Peter, Manny and Blaise will bring unique and important perspectives to our highly active and engaged Board of Directors,” said Erik Sternad, Executive Director of Interface. “They all have a longstanding commitment to strengthening families in our region.”

Other members of Interface’s Board of Directors include Dina Furash (Chair), Spencer Garrett, Paige Glickman, Kathy Hartley, Martin Hernandez, Jim McCann, Terri McGray and Ron Polito.

About Interface Children & Family Services

Interface Children & Family Services is Ventura County and the surrounding community’s most comprehensive non-profit social services safety net. Our mission is to strengthen children, families and individuals to be safe, healthy and thriving. Founded in 1973, Interface works to prevent and heal the effects of child abuse, neglect and abandonment; domestic violence; family conflict and mental health issues. We have 22 distinct programs representing five major service areas, including youth and family strengthening services, mental health, family violence intervention, justice services, and 2-1-1 information and referral across all socioeconomic levels. Interface Family Violence Intervention Services include a 24-hour family violence response team, emergency and transitional shelters, counseling and community-based education.

Serving approximately 24,000 local individuals annually, plus assisting 150,000 people across the state in need through the 2-1-1 Helpline, Interface offers effective solutions to the urgent needs of families and individuals in crisis. This important work is sustained through donations and grants from individuals and organizations, as well as by the work of dedicated volunteers and staff. For more information, please contact Interface Children & Family Services at 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd, Suite I, Camarillo, CA 93012 by telephone at [805.485.6114](tel:805.485.6114) or visit www.icfs.org.

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