



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **New Interim CEO for The Damien Center**

*Dedicated to building staff and serving people with HIV/AIDS*

**INDIANAPOLIS** - The Damien Center board is committed to leading strategically through change with the selection of Jerry Parsons, as its interim president and CEO, effective March 19, 2018. Parsons has been serving The Damien Center for the past seven years in various leadership roles, most recently as vice president and chief compliance officer.

"I am dedicated to training and building staff as we continue to focus on what matters most – the people we serve," said Parsons. "We are a one-stop-shop, sometimes a lifeline, providing medical care, counseling and preventive services to 2,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in Central Indiana. We've created a unique model to remove barriers to care and we will fully implement all of those services to enhance their lives." The Damien Center also serves another 3,000 people each year through programs such as free HIV and STI testing.

Parsons has prior experience in the HIV/AIDS field. He has served as a practitioner in a CDC-funded HIV/AIDS research project at the Indiana State Department of Health. Parsons has also been involved in emergency and disaster planning and preparedness for Central Indiana hospitals. He received his B.S. in Public Health Administration from Indiana University and his Master of Social Work from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

Chad Walker, president of the board of directors of The Damien Center, said all organizations face a transition period when searching for a new CEO. "We believe that selecting Jerry Parsons to lead is the right decision for us at this time. I want to thank him for his passion and commitment to The Damien Center," said Walker. "Jerry has stellar relationships with our various stakeholders, and his excitement, energy and dedication to this organization will allow us to remain steadfast in moving forward."

The Damien Center is Indiana's oldest and largest AIDS service organization. It is a leading resource, provider and advocate for comprehensive HIV/AIDS care, prevention, education and related services.

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*The Damien Center leads the fight to prevent the spread of HIV and empowers persons in Central Indiana affected by HIV/AIDS to move forward each day with dignity. The Center offers vital supportive, preventive, and medical services to those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS so they may live abundant and productive lives. We believe passionately in the dignity and worth of every person who seeks our services. We strive to be a safe and welcoming place so that no barriers separate people from the services they need to prolong and enhance their lives.*