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[FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE]

TAKODAH YMCA ANNOUNCES CHRIS BURKE AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO

Chris Burke brings extensive experience in independent residential camping, youth development, and mission-focused non-profit programs. Chris will be the 12th executive leader of an award-winning organization that has been serving children and families in and around the Cheshire County region for 110 years.

North Swanzey, NH, November 16, 2023 – The Takodah YMCA announced today that Chris Burke will serve as the new Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, effective January 1, 2024. He will succeed Jim Doremus who has served as Interim Executive Director & CEO since October, 2022.

Chris has spent the past sixteen years with Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA serving as the Executive Director of Programs, Camp Becket Director, and Executive Director of Business Operations and Parent Engagement. Previously, he held leadership positions with YMCA Camp Lincoln and YMCA Camp Coniston. Chris focuses on community building, strategic thinking, business analysis, value-based programs, and a growth mindset for himself and his team. Chris is proud of leading initiatives focused on socioeconomic diversity, staff development, career networking, and strong financial management.

Before his YMCA career, Chris worked for Marriott as well as the Houston Independent School District. He holds a Bachelor of Science from Penn State University in Recreation and Park Management. Chris and his wife Katie, son Colin, daughter Grace, and daughter Ella have lived in Longmeadow, Massachusetts for the past eleven years.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to lead an organization with a strong community focus that helps youth through programs that build a sense of belonging, achievement, autonomy, and relationships,” said Chris. “I look forward to working with the Board and staff to help today’s child thrive in a complex world. I personally know that the skills developed at my time in YMCA programs as a child, still guide me as an adult. It is a great honor to give back to children and the community the way others did for me.”

“We are incredibly excited to have Chris join us,” said J. Graeme Noseworthy, President and Chief Volunteer Officer of the Takodah YMCA. “This is the optimal time for a new leader to step in and chart an innovative path forward as we work to grow our camp, expand our programming, improve our fundraising, and develop a strategic plan that ensures we can continue to help kids reach their full potential while training staff members to be future world and local leaders. Chris has the experience, enthusiasm, and energy we need to revitalize our operations and reconnect with our communities to bring them along for this exciting journey.”

TAKODAH YMCA

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In his relatively short-term role as Interim Executive Director and CEO, Jim Doremus has overseen multiple projects geared towards expanding and improving Takodah's facilities in Richmond, NH to better serve the needs of campers and their families. He has also hired new senior staff members, improved the performance of our committees, initiated environmental studies designed to protect the future of our campus, and helped lead the search for our new CEO. We greatly appreciate his tireless efforts across the camp, community, committees, and beyond.

We will be working with both Chris and Jim, along with our Board of Directors, Governance Committee, Leadership Staff, the YMCA of the USA, and the YMCA Alliance of Northern New England on transition planning and CEO on-boarding.

A bright new future for our Y starts today!

About the Takodah YMCA

The Takodah YMCA exists to help kids reach their full potential. Focusing on belonging, autonomy, achievement, and relationships, our programs give kids a chance to discover who they are and what they can achieve. Voted Best Camp in New Hampshire, and only 90 minutes from Boston, we specialize in Summer Camp, Outdoor Education, and Retreats & Rentals.

Visit us at camptakodah.org and follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/camptakodah on Instagram at instagram.com/camptakodah and on YouTube at youtube.com/camptakodah

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