



## **PRESS RELEASE: Zebra Crossings Names New Executive Director**

DOVER — Family services nonprofit Zebra Crossings has selected Aric Morrison as its next executive director, effective this November. Morrison will succeed Astrid Wielens, who founded the organization in 2009 and built its reputation as a valued provider of empowerment programs for youth with chronic medical conditions and their families.

Morrison brings strong credentials as a leader, growth strategist and fundraiser to this position. He will work with the staff and Board of Directors to re-start the camp program offerings that have been interrupted by COVID-19 for the past two summers, and re-engage with program partners and families who have sorely missed the positive, life-shaping experiences that are always part of Zebra Crossings experiences.

“Aric is a dynamic and energetic leader. His warmth, empathy for families facing adversity, and his excitement for what Zebra Crossings can become was evident during our search process,” said Board President Eileen Sewall. “The board is excited to work with Aric as our new executive director and confident that Zebra Crossings will be able to re-establish our presence in the New Hampshire Seacoast, and to expand our footprint beyond our current geographic reach.”

Morrison and Wielens will work together during a planned transition period through the end of 2021. “It has been an incredibly rewarding experience to witness the growth of our programs and the impact on our youth and families,” said Wielens. “I look forward to spending the next two months with Aric as we carefully plan this transition. I am so pleased to have Aric lead Zebra Crossings into our next organizational life stage. His passion for our mission, his drive, openness, and curiosity are key traits that will connect him naturally to our communities and help Zebra Crossings into a strong future.”

Prior to joining Zebra Crossings, Morrison was an accomplished and successful executive with extensive leadership experience in various business sectors. Several years ago a personal circumstance led him to move away from corporate pursuits to a nonprofit focus. “As a father to a son with a serious medical condition, my professional goals need to be aligned with my core values which is helping people,” Morrison said. “I appreciate the Board’s confidence in me, and I’m honored to have the opportunity to succeed Astrid who has built Zebra Crossings into such a successful organization.”

A community gathering to meet Aric Morrison and to recognize Astrid Wielens will be announced at a later date.

## **ABOUT ZEBRA CROSSINGS**

**Zebra Crossings** is a fun, safe place where kids just get to be kids. Whether it is a week-long camp or weekend activities, care is always provided by trained medical staff. We aim to lessen the burden of chronic medical conditions by connecting kids through play and giving respite for caregivers. Programs serve children who have a chronic medical condition and their families. A broad range of programs, family weekends and a summer camps occur at various locations in the NH Seacoast and around the state. Visit [www.zebra-crossings.org](http://www.zebra-crossings.org) for more information.

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