



# World of Children

UNLOCK THE FUTURE FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN

## **WORLD OF CHILDREN WELCOMES INTERNATIONAL NONPROFIT EXPERT STEFAAN POORTMAN AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**IRVINE, CA - March 13, 2019** – World of Children®, a global organization that funds, elevates and educates nonprofit leaders running high-impact programs that exclusively serve the needs of vulnerable children, is proud to announce the appointment of Stefaan Poortman as executive director. With more than 20 years of international nonprofit experience, most recently as chief executive officer for Global Heritage Fund, Poortman will lead World of Children’s Southern California-based team that supports the heroic work of some of the world’s leading humanitarians.

“After conducting a nationwide executive search, it is an honor and a privilege to welcome Stefaan to our World of Children family,” said Co-Founder Harry Leibowitz. “Our main focus has been and always will be to change the future for a vulnerable child, and Stefaan’s success over the last two decades brings an elevated approach to our organization that will allow us to explore new and innovative ways to deepen our commitment to our Honorees and the children they serve.”

A natural and well-respected leader in the international nonprofit community, Poortman brings his expertise to World of Children’s unique venture philanthropy model of discovering and investing in real-life heroes who are currently working on the ground in their communities. Building on the foundation and infrastructure that has solidified World of Children as a formidable powerhouse in the small-to-mid-sized global nonprofit sector over the last 21 years, he will focus on amplifying the organization’s impact through new and ongoing strategic partnerships, corporate and institutional giving, and expanding on sustainable relationships with World of Children Honorees around the globe.

Prior to his work with Global Heritage Fund, Poortman held positions with the World Resources Institute, Chemonics International, and the World Foundation for Environment and Development. He is currently an advisor to FieldWorks in the United Kingdom and previously served as an advisor to the CEO and founder of Artisan Connect.

Born in Washington D.C. to Dutch parents and raised in the United States, Zimbabwe and the United Kingdom, Poortman was born to make an international impact. He holds a master of arts degree with honors in economics from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland and has completed the Executive Program in Non-Profit Leadership at Stanford University’s Graduate School of Business. He is bilingual in English and Dutch and speaks some French and Spanish. He and his wife have three children and currently reside in Orange County, California.

### **About World of Children**

World of Children unlocks the future for vulnerable children by funding, elevating and educating the most effective changemakers for children worldwide. Since 1998, the organization has dedicated more than \$13 million to high-impact programs for children, led by nearly 120 Honorees working in over 50

countries. World of Children is recognized in the media as the “Nobel Prize for Child Advocates” and is the only global recognition and funding program that exclusively focuses on a broad range of children’s issues including health, education, safety and human rights.

World of Children has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, The Huffington Post, *People*, *Town & Country*, and *Harper’s Bazaar*. World of Children Honorees have also been featured by CNN, The Ellen DeGeneres Show, Fast Company, *Glamour*, *TEEN Vogue*, *TIME for Kids*, and *USA Today*, among other national and international media. The Huffington Post named Co-Founders Harry Leibowitz and Kay Isaacson-Leibowitz one of the most inspiring “power couples” in the country for their lifetime commitment to improving the lives of vulnerable children around the world.

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