

Siragusa Family Foundation Names New Executive Director



December 12, 2016 (Chicago, IL) The board of directors of the Siragusa Family Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of John E. Hicks, Jr. as its next executive director, effective March 2017.

Hicks, a third generation family member of founder Ross D. Siragusa, has served on the board of the foundation since 1992, the last six years as chair of the board. Leading through generational leadership changes and streamlining of the foundation's grantmaking, he will transition from his board role to guide the foundation through its next stage as executive director.

"John is a passionate, entrepreneurial and thoughtful executive who will lead the foundation as we continue to focus on addressing important social issues and engage future generations through our philanthropy," said Ross D. Siragusa III, chair and president of the foundation's board of directors.

Born and raised in the Chicago area, Hicks has lived in Tucson, AZ since attending the University of Arizona in the early 1980s. He has worked in real estate and investment management, most recently at Merrill Lynch as a financial advisor. He has also been longtime volunteer and board member with various youth organizations in his community.

"I am honored to be taking on this role at such a critical juncture for the foundation. We have had wonderful leadership over the past two decades, resulting in truly meaningful partnerships with our nonprofit and philanthropy colleagues. I look forward to working with our board and staff to continue and deepen our relationships to address community needs here in Chicago and to strengthen my grandfather's legacy and philanthropic vision."

Hicks will relocate to Chicago in the New Year and will report to the foundation's board of directors. Outgoing executive director Sharmila Rao Thakkar, whose leadership and commitment has been critical to the foundation's ongoing success for the past decade, will continue on as a strategic advisor through June. Program officer Jenny Shanks will be the primary in-office contact for grantmaking and related operations, and Caitlyn Hicks departs at year-end to pursue new opportunities.

About the Foundation

Renamed in 2016 to honor its longstanding legacy, the Siragusa Family Foundation is a multi-generational family foundation based in Chicago, IL that funds in the areas of arts, education and health. Founded by Ross D. Siragusa in 1950, the foundation is governed today by his descendants and managed by local staff. Following in Mr. Siragusa's philanthropic footsteps, the foundation supports organizations that provide access and opportunity to the underserved so that they are empowered to help themselves and to experience a better quality of life. By the end of 2016, the foundation will have granted over \$43 million to more than 540 organizations, the majority of which are in the Chicago area, the region that first gave Siragusa opportunity. Learn more at www.siragusa.org

Please direct inquiries to: Sharmila Rao Thakkar at srthakkar@siragusa.org