



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Tickets for Kids Charities Welcomes Gene Walker as New President & CEO

Pittsburgh, PA – April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Tickets for Kids Charities is proud to announce the appointment of Gene Walker as its new President & CEO. With a rich background in finance, education, nonprofit management, and community service, Gene brings a wealth of experience and passion to his new role.

A Pittsburgh native and graduate of Peabody High School, Gene received his bachelor's degree in business and accounting from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania.

Gene's dedication to Pittsburgh's youth began in 2009 when he began his work with Pittsburgh Promise. During his time there, he played a pivotal role in the development of several programs aimed at supporting the city's youth, including the We Promise program focusing on African American male mentoring, The Promise college tours, and The Promise ambassador program.

In 2018 Gene Founded Mission C, a nonprofit dedicated to providing financial education and support for families facing eviction. His commitment to community service further extended to supporting adults with intellectual and physical disabilities through Gene Cook Supports, Inc.

Gene's passion for education and equity led him to be elected as the Board President and Director for District 9 of the Pittsburgh Board of Public Education. His vision for creating more equitable and successful schools for all children resonated deeply with his constituents.

Most recently, Gene served as the Executive Director of Café Momentum Pittsburgh where he spearheaded the launch of the first replication of their restaurant and community center, providing invaluable internship opportunities and training for young people.

Now, as the new President & CEO of Tickets for Kids Charities, Gene is poised to continue his mission of serving youth not only in Pittsburgh, but also in TFK's other primary markets including the Twin Cities, New York City, and D.C./Maryland/Virginia areas and continuing to grow our mission to serve kids all over the country. Gene's dedication to enriching the lives of young people aligns perfectly with TFK's mission of providing access to enriching experiences for children from under-resourced communities.

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*"I am so honored and excited to be joining the Tickets for Kids Charities family. The mission sits right at the center of my heart and passion for service. I cannot wait to work with the team to build upon what this amazing organization has done over the last 29 years."*

- Gene Walker

Gene resides in Pittsburgh with his wife Jenny and their two children, Brady and Isabelle, along with their beloved pets. He looks forward to leading Tickets for Kids Charities into its next chapter of impact and growth, ensuring that even more children have the opportunity to experience the joy of live events and cultural experiences.

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