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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Veteran educator Dr. Libby Parker named Executive
Director of Huntsville-based Village of Promise**

HUNTSVILLE, AL (March 31, 2020) – Veteran educator, instructional innovator, and community volunteer Dr. Libby Parker has been named Executive Director of Village of Promise.

Village of Promise (VoP) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization based in Huntsville. VoP is a Family Advancement Center providing educational programs, sustainable tools and opportunities that empower children and their families to advance out of poverty. The VoP curriculum has resulted in many successes over the past few years.

"I'm honored and humbled to have been selected to lead this incredible and impactful organization. Eradicating poverty by providing education and opportunity has been my life's passion," said Parker. "I dream of a world without poverty. VoP is the perfect organization to bring this dream to fruition. I'm so excited to join the team", she added.

"The Village of Promise Board of Directors extends Dr. Libby Parker our most sincere congratulations on her new role as Executive Director," said Board Chair Dr. James C. Gilbert. "We pledge our continued support in always looking forward to new opportunities and lifting up the Promise. Welcome Dr. Parker," Gilbert added.

VoP co-founder Bobby Bradley said, "I am excited to have Dr. Libby Parker join the Village of Promise family. During this time of crisis and unprecedented change, our goal is to remain connected to the families we serve and continue our mission with little to no disruption. I look forward to working with Dr. Parker to reach this goal now and into the future", said Bradley.

Libby Parker has 29 years of experience in education and community service, serving as a teacher, resource specialist, administrator, and trainer at elementary, middle, and high school levels. She has served on various community projects and outreach programs as well as organizing and implementing fund raising events for non-profit organizations.

Most recently, Parker served as a committee member for the City of Huntsville's Rosa Parks Day Celebration, the Community Kite Festival for Social Justice and Unity, instructor at Greengate @Randolph, a school for children with Dyslexia, and principal at Holy Family School. She created Parker Educational Services, providing Professional Development for educators as well as advocacy for students with special needs, helping families to navigate the evaluation, eligibility, IEP creation and implementation processes.

On the international stage, Parker has met with government officials, citizens and business owners in a reciprocal exchange program between the United States and Pakistan to study international relations and represent the U.S. at educational conferences. She served as a U.S. Legislative Fellow to Pakistan in 2016, and in Peru in October 2018. Parker has mentored visitors from South Asia (Pakistan, India), South and Central America, and Africa. Through her work with Global Ties of Alabama, she has continued to bridge gaps among individuals with very different cultures and experiences by sharing her expertise in the U.S. and abroad.

Parker received a Bachelors of Science in Special Education from Jacksonville State University, and earned a Masters degree in Educational Leadership, an Educational Specialist degree in Instructional Leadership, and an Ed.D in Educational Leadership – all from Samford University. Parker holds a National Board of Professional Teaching Standards Certification in *Early Childhood through Young Adult Exceptional Needs Specialist*.

An international and national presenter, Parker served as a keynote speaker at the 2016 U.S./South Asia Education Conference in Pakistan, and in Peru in 2018, a co-presenter at the National Youth At-Risk Conference in 2017 and 2018 in Savannah, GA. In addition, Parker has presented at numerous regional and state conferences.

Recently, Delois H. Smith, retired Vice President of the UAH Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, served as Interim Executive Director of the Village of Promise.

