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Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cornelia de Lange Syndrome (CdLS) Foundation Announces New Executive Director

AVON, CT (January 11, 2017) – The Cornelia de Lange Syndrome (CdLS) Foundation is proud to announce the appointment of its new Executive Director Morrisette “Bonnie” Royster.

Royster comes to the Foundation with extensive expertise in leadership and relationship management. Royster’s career began at CitiFinancial. Her resume also includes experience at MassMutual Financial Group, United Way and her own startup company, Renewal Health Systems.

As Executive Director, Royster will serve as the Foundation’s spokesperson, as well as oversee program, development and communication initiatives. A creative, compassionate and innovative problem solver, the Foundation sees her addition to the team as a positive decision for organizational growth.

"Bonnie has a great mix of experience. We’re really excited to work with her to identify new ways to provide resources for everyone affected by CdLS," said Board of Directors President, Rich Haaland.

She earned her Bachelor of Science in Finance from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She is in the process of acquiring her Master of Vedic Science from the Maharishi University of Management, with an expected date of completion in May of 2017.

Bonnie’s proven experience in both non-profit and corporate settings will help maintain the good standing of the organization, expand funding and enhance existing programs and services. In 2016, the CdLS Foundation earned its fifth consecutive Four-Star Charity Navigator rating and a Top-Rated Nonprofit designation from GreatNonprofits.

Ms. Royster commenced her duties on Thursday, January 5, 2017.

About Cornelia de Lange Syndrome

An estimated 20,000 people in the U.S. have CdLS but remain undiagnosed and/or without support services. Individuals with CdLS range from mildly to severely affected, though most have similar physical characteristics including small size, hands and feet; thin eyebrows that meet in the middle; long eyelashes; upturned nose; and thin, downturned lips. Some individuals have limb differences, including missing fingers or arms. Common medical problems include GERD, bowel obstruction, and congenital heart defects.

About the Foundation

Founded in 1981, the Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation is a family support organization that exists to ensure early and accurate diagnosis of CdLS, promote research into the causes and manifestations of

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the syndrome, and help people with a diagnosis of CdLS and their families make informed decisions throughout their lifetime.

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