

## MEDIA ADVISORY

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### **Former Participant is new Neighborhood House President**

The Neighborhood House Board of Directors is pleased to announce the selection of Armando Camacho as the organization's new president, effective May 19, 2008, replacing interim president Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas. Camacho has a distinguished record of success with both the Saint Paul and Minneapolis Public School Districts. "His experience as a participant at Neighborhood House will prove a great asset in further strengthening our programs," says Jamice Obianyo, Neighborhood House Board Chair. "His passion, intelligence and nationally-recognized leadership skills are exactly what we hoped to find in a new president."

Camacho came to Saint Paul's West Side from Puerto Rico with his grandparents at age six. A major part of his immigrant experience was participating in Neighborhood House programs including Youth Leadership, English Language Learning, the Constance Currie Scholarship and, occasionally, the Food Shelf. He supported himself through high school and college. Camacho graduated from the University of Saint Thomas and Saint Cloud State University in four years with a bachelor's degree in special education while working full time. He also holds a master's degree in education from Saint Mary's University.

Camacho comes to Neighborhood House from the Saint Paul Public School District, where he was assistant director of Alternative Learning Programs. He was a principal in

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the Minneapolis Public School District, where his leadership of Whittier International Elementary School attracted national attention. During his tenure, Whittier earned International Baccalaureate certification, just one of his accomplishments that resulted in enrollment at the school increasing by over 70%.

Camacho is married and a father of two children. His wife, Angela, an immigrant from Colombia, works as a sixth grade teacher in the Roseville Area School District.

As president, Camacho will lead the programs and staff of Neighborhood House, which offers essential programs that help new arrivals and area families put down roots, learn important life skills, strengthen their families, and contribute to building a diverse and thriving community.

For further information, please contact:

Jamice Obiany, Board Chair, 651.308.2795

### About Neighborhood House

Neighborhood House is a multi-cultural, multi-lingual center, open to all, and committed to the success of refugees and new immigrants. Providing services in the settlement house tradition since 1897 in Saint Paul, Minnesota, Neighborhood House helps people, individuals and organizations develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to thrive in diverse communities. Neighborhood House has been privileged to work with people from more than fifty ethnic populations as they build and sustain productive new lives and has received numerous awards for its programs and responsible fiscal management. For more information, call 651.789.2500 or go to [www.neighb.org](http://www.neighb.org).

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