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Jonathan Vernick Steps Down as Executive Director of Baker Places, Inc.

*Vernick leaving San Francisco nonprofit after 34 years,
following merger agreement with Positive Resource Center*

SAN FRANCISCO (March 29, 2017) – Jonathan Vernick, executive director of [Baker Places, Inc.](#) (BP), a San Francisco-based nonprofit which provides a comprehensive array of residential treatment services to people with mental health, substance abuse and HIV/AIDS-related issues, today announced he will be stepping down from the organization as of March 31, 2017.

San Francisco-based [Positive Resource Center](#) (PRC), a nonprofit whose mission is to assist people living with HIV/AIDS or mental health disabilities, announced its agreement to combine with BP in June 2016. [AIDS Emergency Fund \(AEF\)](#), an emergency financial assistance provider for low-income residents affected by HIV/AIDS, completed its merger with PRC in August 2016 and retains its name and identity as a program of PRC.

Vernick, who's been with BP for 34 years, was originally slated to retire on October 31, 2016, but extended his stay until March 31, 2017 to ensure all the requirements of the merger were fulfilled. Brett Andrews, who previously served as PRC's executive director, is now CEO of the newly combined organization.

"I've worked for Baker Places for more than half my life and, for those who may feel inclined to express their gratitude for this, please hold your applause," said Vernick. "Every employee of Baker Places and every other community agency knows that we are the true beneficiaries of the work we do. Staff and clients are members of a larger community bound by belief, by hope and by the unknowable possibilities for all the tomorrows yet to come."

"Since 1969, Baker Places has helped people attain the skills needed to live productive and fruitful lives each and every day," said Andrews. "Jonathan played an integral role in the success of Baker Places for more than three decades. Most recently, his insight and expertise was instrumental as we explored and later approved a merger between the two organizations. Everyone at PRC wishes him well as he embarks on a new life adventure."

Vernick's 34-year history with Baker Places, Inc.

Vernick began working for BP in 1983 as program director of the Baker Street residential treatment program. In 1986, he became the agency's first clinical director and was subsequently promoted to executive director in 1991. He was responsible for developing San Francisco's first dually diagnosed residential treatment programs focused on individuals with both mental health and substance use problems. Vernick initiated the creation of residential programs for people with HIV/AIDS in combination with addiction and mental health issues. Additionally, he worked with the Department of Public Health to create the first community-based medical detox program in California.

"PRC and Baker Places have worked alongside each other for decades. Bringing these organizations together with shared values, as well as the clients we serve, will only serve to broaden the breadth and depth of this now singular agency. I cannot wait to see what the future holds for Baker Places, PRC and AEF," he said.



*Jonathan Vernick
announces his retirement
as executive director of
Baker Places, effective
March 31, 2017.*

ABOUT POSITIVE RESOURCE CENTER

The not-for-profit Positive Resource Center (PRC), established in 1987, is the only place in San Francisco for people living with HIV/AIDS or mental health disabilities to receive comprehensive benefits counseling and employment services. For more information, visit www.positiveresource.org.

ABOUT BAKER PLACES

Founded in 1964, Baker Places, Inc. (BP) is a nonprofit organization that provides a comprehensive array of high-quality services to people with mental health, substance abuse and HIV/AIDS-related issues. Through a myriad of clinically-based residential treatment programs, BP assists individuals in learning and regaining the skills needed to live their lives fully and productively in the community. For more information, visit www.bakerplaces.org.

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