

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 31, 2017 **CONTACT:** Ken Taylor, Executive Director

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Kids Forward Communication and Development Manager Wenona Wolf Receives Journalism Award

MADISON, WI – The Native American Journalists Association (NAJA) recently recognized Kids Forward Communication and Development Manager, Wenona Wolf, for her powerful and insightful essay for <u>Madison Magazine</u> calling attention to the inequities facing Wisconsin's Native American communities. Wolf's essay, "What it's like to be native in Madison" received the 3rd place award for Best Column in Print from the organization, and she will be honored at the NAJA National Native Media Conference in Anaheim, California on September 9, 2017.

"The Kids Forward staff and community are so excited to congratulate Wenona for receiving this well-deserved honor," said Kids Forward Executive Director Ken Taylor. "From our fundraising operations to our recent rebranding process, Wenona's insight and perspective have proved invaluable to our work. As an organization that is committed to racial equity, we are fortunate to work every day with such a fierce advocate for Wisconsin's indigenous communities."

Wolf grew up on the St. Croix Chippewa Reservation in northwest Wisconsin and is an enrolled member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. In addition to being the communication and development manager for Kids Forward and its Race to Equity Project, Wolf serves as the board President for Community Shares of Wisconsin and is on the board of directors for the Bayview Foundation, We Are Healers, and the Wisconsin Women's Network.

According to the NAJA website, "the Native American Journalists Association serves and empowers Native journalists through programs and actions designed to enrich journalism and promote Native cultures. NAJA is committed to increasing the representation of Native journalists in mainstream media. NAJA encourages both mainstream and tribal media to attain the highest standards of professionalism, ethics and responsibility."

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Kids Forward, formerly the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, advocates for effective, long-lasting solutions that break down barriers to success for children and families in Wisconsin. Using research and a community-informed approach, Kids Forward works to help every kid, every family, and every community thrive.