

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**The Mather Makes Contribution to the AUX, a Commercial Hub
Dedicated to Healing, Wellness, and Racial Equity in Evanston**

EVANSTON, IL. (June 14, 2022) -- The Mather, a Life Plan Community in Evanston, Illinois is making a one-time restricted grant of \$500,000 to support the development of the AUX, a commercial hub located in Evanston that will support entrepreneurs of color and social enterprises that are dedicated to promoting wellness and empowering individuals to thrive. This one-time donation is part of an ongoing commitment by Mather to positively impact those who live in Evanston and the surrounding Chicagoland area.

Last year, Mather, the not-for-profit parent organization of The Mather, celebrated 80 years in Evanston, with a commitment to serving older adults through its mission of creating Ways to Age WellSM by developing residences, programs, and services that enhance individuals' well-being, and support their desire to thrive within their communities.

“The focus on inclusive and holistic wellness opportunities aligns with Mather’s mission and values, and our strong commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion,” said Mather CEO and President, Mary Leary. “We’re happy to support the AUX and look forward to opportunities to work together on programs or other initiatives that have a positive impact on the greater Evanston community.”

The AUX is being developed by a team of local community leaders together with The Growing Season, a nonprofit dedicated to community wellness, and is projected to open in 2023. In addition to serving as a vibrant wellness hub with an array of services including technical assistance, mentorship, and peer support, the AUX will address systemic barriers to racial equity through a financially sustainable social change model.

“The Aux is thrilled to receive \$500,000 in support from The Mather to further our shared interest in community wellness,” said Lori Laser, Founder/CEO, The Growing Season. “This recognition by a longstanding not-for-profit organization with deep roots in Evanston, is an important step in creating access to healthy living in a more caring and equitable way across an entire community.”

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ABOUT MATHER

Based in Evanston, Illinois, Mather is an 81-year-old, non-denominational not-for-profit organization that creates Ways to Age WellSM. Mather creates programs, places, and residences for today's young-at-heart older adults. To learn more visit www.Mather.com.

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