

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 6, 2020**

**SOLES4SOULS MOURNS THE LOSS OF DAVID GRABEN,  
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** — It is with deep sadness that we announce that David Graben, Soles4Souls President and Chief Operations Officer, passed away Tuesday, May 5, 2020 following a long battle with cancer. On behalf of the Soles4Souls staff around the world and our Board of Directors, we extend our deepest sympathies to David's family during this time, including his wife Pattie, a long-time member of the Soles4Souls staff.

David was a fearless leader during his 14 years at Soles4Souls, playing a key role in the organization through some of its most difficult days and back into success. He was dearly loved and respected by his peers and team, and advocated tirelessly for our donors, partners, and the people we serve. He was a driving force behind Soles4Souls' global expansion, developing opportunities in Canada, Asia and Europe; and managing its micro-enterprise operations across the world. During David's tenure, he oversaw the distribution of more than 40 million pairs of shoes in 127 countries, helping countless numbers of people break the cycle of poverty. Most importantly, he was a devoted husband to wife Pattie, loving step-father to Megan and Morgan, and adoring grandfather to Jayden.

"This is a tremendous loss for David's family, friends and Soles4Souls," said Buddy Teaster, CEO of Soles4Souls. "It is also a tremendous loss for all those David served, loved and respected around the world. Whether working with a corporate partner, a traveler, a shoe donor, an entrepreneur or a colleague, he brought his full game, every time. He had an amazing capacity for hard work and results, fun and building relationships, always in service of our mission. His belief in entrepreneurship as the best way to end poverty has been fundamental to Soles4Souls' progress in the last decade. We could not have done it without his leadership.

I had the good fortune to travel the world with him, in some pretty tough places, and he was always up for more. I have never worked with a better operator, true partner or trusted friend. I feel sure I speak for many people when I say that he will be missed dearly. I will do my best to keep his spirit alive in all that we do."

**About Soles4Souls**

Soles4Souls turns unwanted shoes and clothing into opportunity by keeping them from going to waste and putting them to good use: providing relief, creating jobs and empowering people to break the cycle of poverty. Headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee, the organization repurposes product to supply its micro-enterprise, disaster relief, and direct assistance programs. With locations and warehouses across three continents, Soles4Souls has been able to distribute more than 40 million pairs of shoes in 129 countries since 2006. Visit [soles4souls.org](http://soles4souls.org) for more information.

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Soles4Souls

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