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For Immediate Release:

Sterling Foundation Management Names Peter F. Najera Chief Operating Officer.

Herndon, VA – Sterling Foundation Management has named Peter F. “Pete” Najera to the position of Chief Operating Officer, the firm announced today. Najera will report to Evan Unzelman, whose promotion to President opened up the COO position. Najera will be responsible for all operational issues across Sterling’s full suite of philanthropic services, including Private Foundation Administration, Sterling’s Donor Advised Fund, Charitable Remainder Trust and Charitable Lead Trust Administration, Charitable Consulting, and the company’s industry-leading Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT) Program.

Najera comes to Sterling from Enviva, where he has served as Vice President of Operations since 2010. Enviva is one of the world’s largest privately held producers of processed biomass fuel. At Enviva, Najera supervised a \$300 million international business with operations in Europe, Latin America, and throughout the United States. A recognized expert in *Lean Thinking*, Najera is noted for successfully establishing at Enviva a culture of continuous improvement, and building a high-performing team that helped Enviva grow from a startup to a multi-hundred million dollar enterprise.

“We’ve known Pete, and followed his career, for 15 years,” says Roger Silk, Chief Executive Officer of Sterling. “Pete has a proven track record of successful operations, leadership, and management. As Sterling continues to grow, Pete will provide us with the talent and experience needed to smoothly operate across our full spectrum of philanthropic services. We are thrilled to bring Pete onto the team.”

Najera has been recognized with a number of national and regional leadership awards including the prestigious MacArthur Leadership Award, the Draper Leadership Award, and Notre Dame’s Corby Award for distinguished government service. A member of the Council on Foreign Relations, Pete has also served as a Young Leader Fellow in Britain, France, Austria and Japan.

Najera earned his undergraduate degree in Business Administration from the University of Notre Dame and earned a master’s degree from Harvard University. He retired from the Army with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

About Sterling Foundation Management

Sterling Foundation Management is the oldest national Foundation management firm in the country. Sterling works with a broad range of advisors, clients and high net worth individuals in developing solutions to help them achieve their philanthropic, family, and financial goals through the effective use of private foundations and other charitable planning vehicles and financial services. With services covering the gamut of charitable planning options that advisors are likely to encounter or need, the firm’s services, tailored to each advisor, include charitable planning, establishment and administration of private foundations and Donor Advised Fund accounts, administration of charitable remainder trusts and charitable lead trusts, and advanced planning and implementation of CRT strategies for both new and existing CRT clients.

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