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## CHRIS PRICE'S GOOD BYE MESSAGE:

**It has been an honor and privilege to lead Pecan for the last 12 years. Thank you to everyone who has been involved. It has been a pleasure working with you and playing my role in the mission.**

When JF Kennedy visited NASA in 1962 he asked a janitor, holding a broom at the time, what he did for NASA. The Janitor told the president *"I am helping to put a man on the moon"*.

My original target when I joined in 2011 was to complete the sale of a building and secure the future of the charity beyond the next two months. After that was achieved, I have spent 12 years leading Pecan, helping to shape the future direction and develop new responses to poverty.

This is such a wonderful and caring organisation, with a team who live out the values of Kindness, Belief and Hope in their interactions with clients, partners and each other. Leaving is not easy, Pecan is a caring and exciting place to be. When I announced my resignation to the team, I quoted from Ecclesiastes 3 *'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.'* My season at Pecan has finished and a new season of planting and sowing is starting.

One of the achievements over my season has been to establish Pecan's mission of *'restore futures and see an end to poverty in all its forms'*. We are now partners in coalitions of organisations and communities who want to see lives transformed. In that transformation poverty will be eliminated from people's lives and from communities. At Pecan we think beyond the difference that we make alone and look at the impact of what we do together. The ending of poverty will only happen through the impact of what we do together and by being core to mission.

As my season ends and I reflect, what a privileged season it has been. I have been inspired by so many people inside and outside of Pecan, especially our clients and members. I have seen the organisation transform from an employment focused, to a community charity. My season has had a backdrop of austerity, COVID and this cost-of-living crisis, these have all made the effects of poverty starker and more widespread. Pecan has helped to lessen the effects on our clients and members, whilst always looking beyond service delivery and established projects that address holistic issues and base interactions in our values with dignity at the core.

Pecan will always play its part in ending poverty. Sometimes as the janitor and sometimes as the engineer. We may change our head and our handle at different times, but we will always be the same broom focused on the mission.