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GOLDEN SEEDS EXCEEDS \$100 MILLION IN TOTAL INVESTMENTS IN WOMEN-LED COMPANIES

NEW YORK, NY, August 9, 2017 – Golden Seeds, the leading investment firm dedicated to pursuing market returns through investing in women-led companies in the US, today announced it has exceeded \$100 million in total investments in women-led companies. This is a substantial milestone for any angel investment group, and highlights Golden Seeds’ mission-driven support for providing women entrepreneurs with investment capital.

The \$100 million represents investments in 143 companies, 75% of which was direct investments from Golden Seeds’ network, which has included over 650 angels who have been part of the organization from 2005 to the present. 25% came from the Golden Seeds venture funds. Golden Seeds estimates that these companies went on to raise over \$750 million of additional capital.

“Since 2005, we have seen large numbers of women entrepreneurs flourish in many industries, demonstrating determination, vision and grit. We believe that Golden Seeds’ early support and leadership enabled them to grow,” said Loretta McCarthy, Managing Partner at Golden Seeds. “The women and men of Golden Seeds are proud of our role in championing the potential of women entrepreneurs, and of our serious endeavor to fund them. We extend our gratitude to all who have supported our work, and the success of our companies.”

When Golden Seeds began in 2005, women entrepreneurs represented just 3% (~1500) of the 48,000 US companies that received funding from angel investors in that year. In 2016, that number grew to 22% (~14,000) of 71,000 funded companies. That represents a nine-

fold increase in the percentage of funded women entrepreneurs over those 12 years (2005 to 2016). *

In addition, Golden Seeds has played a substantial role in encouraging the growth of women angel investors. In 2005, women angels were 5% (~11,000) of the self-identified angel investors in the US. In 2016, women angels represented 26% (~78,000) of the total, a seven-fold increase of women angels over these years. *

McCarthy continued, “Women angel investors are now an integral part of our industry, using their capital, skills and networks to contribute to the success of start-up companies.”

About Golden Seeds

Golden Seeds is an investment firm dedicated to pursuing market returns through investing in women-led companies in the US. Founded in 2005, Golden Seeds is headquartered in New York City, with active chapters in New York, Boston, Silicon Valley and Texas - and members in 22 states. Since its launch, the Golden Seeds angel network has included over 650 women and men. In addition to the angel network, Golden Seeds has a close relationship with two venture funds with committed capital of \$31 million. For additional information, visit www.goldenseeds.com. Follow us @goldenseeds.

* Center for Venture Research, University of New Hampshire