



SEASON OF LIGHT CAMPAIGN

“The hero is one who kindles a great light in the world”

-- Nathaniel Hawthorne

December 7, 2006

Dear Community Partner:

While you are busy shopping, celebrating with families and friends and embracing the joy and love that surrounds this Holiday season, I would ask you to take a moment and reflect on the children in your community who will have a difficult time finding joy during the Holidays. These children are the most vulnerable in our community, victims of abuse and neglect who through no fault of their own find themselves living in group homes, with foster families or with relatives, and hoping to be reunited with their parents.

Each of the some 1536 children in Southwest Florida who are victims have their own story to tell but, ultimately, they all want one thing. Whether they are infants, toddlers, or teen-agers, they all want, need and deserve a permanent, loving home with the opportunity to become healthy, happy and productive adults.

Take David for example. He first came into our care when he was barely a year old. Over the next few years he went in and out of care as his father and mother fought drug abuse, domestic violence and spent time in jail. When David was three, his father committed suicide and his mother decided to turn her life around. She gave up drugs, attended college and was eventually able to regain custody of David. It took years of support and services, but today, David and his mother are both doing well.

At Children's Network of Southwest Florida, we work tirelessly year-round with over 50 community partners, to fight child abuse in our community and take care of young victims like David, who end up in our care. This past year, 92 children found permanent, loving homes through adoption, 67 new foster families were recruited and 502 children were reunited with their families. Unfortunately, despite our success this past year, the need continues and we have hundreds of children who still need your help.

We know that you receive many requests at this time of year, but we hope you can find it in your heart to give a financial gift to help prevent child abuse in our community and provide support to its innocent victims. Your gift, regardless of the size, will directly benefit our children by providing dental care, clothing, school supplies, summer camps and child abuse prevention

programs throughout the year. During this special season, please consider helping us bring light into a child's life and give generously.

From all of us at The Children's Network Southwest Florida, we thank you and wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season!

Sincerely,

Chris Card
Interim CEO