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**Children's Network of SWFL Awards Two Contracts for Case Management of Child Welfare in Southwest Florida**

(Southwest Florida)- On October 10, 2012, The Children's Network of Southwest Florida (CNSWFL) published an Invitation to Negotiate (ITN 12-01) in order to select a Case Management Organization (CMO) for each of the two geographical Areas that encompass Circuit 20. Area One includes Lee and Charlotte Counties and Area Two includes Collier, Hendry and Glades Counties. CMOs are responsible for providing case management services to children who have been abused and neglected and are served in the child welfare system.

Four potential agencies submitted responses to the ITN. An Evaluation Team comprised of community members from all five counties and representatives from the CNSWFL reviewed each agency's responses and invited three agencies to participate in concurrent negotiations. Each agency presented in the following four pre-determined areas: Foster Home Recruitment, Support and Retention, Quality Parenting Initiative, Personnel Recruitment, Retention and Management and Performance Measures.

After careful consideration of all the information gathered throughout the ITN process, the Negotiation Team unanimously chose to award contracts to the following agencies:

**Case Management Organization in Area One- Lutheran Services Florida**  
**Case Management Organization in Area Two- Family Preservation Services of Florida**

**These contracts will be effective July 1, 2013.**

"Our community is fortunate to have had four outstanding agencies respond to this ITN. The Board of Directors and staff at the CNSWFL would like to thank all of the agencies that responded for their passion and commitment to serving children and families. We look forward to working with Lutheran Services Florida and Family Preservation Services of Florida to continue improving the lives of the most vulnerable children in our community and are excited for our continued growth and success," says Nadereh Salim, CEO of the Children's Network of SWFL.

*Children's Network of SWFL is a private, nonprofit organization that administers the child welfare system in Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry and Glades Counties. Its mission is to work with the community to protect children and preserve families. Children's Network is responsible for approximately 1,526 children and their caregivers, and delivers a comprehensive local system of care through subcontracts with more than 50 social service agencies. Since its founding in 2003, the organization has worked so that Southwest Florida's abused children are safer, have more access to resources and are able to achieve permanency quickly. For more information about Children's Network and its services, visit [www.childnetswfl.org](http://www.childnetswfl.org) or call us at 239-226-1524.*

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