



Children's Network of Southwest Florida Renews \$135 Million Contract with Department of Children and Families

~ Contract oversees all child welfare services in Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Hendry and Glades Counties~

FORT MYERS –The Florida Department of Children and Families announced that the Children's Network of Southwest Florida, a local non-profit organization, will continue to oversee foster and adoption related services for five local counties in Southwest Florida for five more years. The announcement comes with the award of a \$135 million contract.

"We are confident that this decision is one that will produce the best outcomes for local children and families as well as Florida's taxpayers. The Children's Network has remained committed to building a community of healthy families and has been an effective partner in recent years," said Mike Carroll, SunCoast Region Managing Director for the Department of Children and Families.

The current contract for the Children's Network of Southwest Florida's expires on June 30, 2012. The new contract will be effective July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2017.

"We are excited that Secretary Wilkins has chosen to negotiate with the Children's Network of SWFL for the CBC lead agency contract. We are honored to continue serving the children and families in our community and look forward to continued growth and success through our many partnerships," said Nadereh Salim, CEO of Children's Network.

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 1,400 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 or call us at 239-226-1524.

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239/226-1524 | fax 239/226/1115 | 2232 Altamont Ave | Fort Myers, FL 33901

The Children's Network of Southwest Florida is committed to working with the community to protect children and preserve families.