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**For Immediate Release:**

## **Children's Home Hosts Legislative Reception**

*Covington, KY, October 18, 2013* – Thursday evening, Children's Home of Northern Kentucky welcomed members of the Northern Kentucky Legislative Caucus to a private reception on the front veranda of the Home's historic administration building in Covington's Devou Park.

The event, co-hosted by Kentucky State Senator John Schickel and former CHNK Board of Trustees President John Mocker, provided legislators with an opportunity to mingle and engage in meaningful conversation with representatives from the social services, educational, and judicial arenas in Boone, Kenton, and Campbell counties, as well as other local business leaders.

"I am grateful to Senator Schickel and John for their help in bringing together our legislators and community leaders for this important discussion," said Rick Wurth, CHNK's Chief Executive Officer. "We have a clear task at CHNK: to care for abused and neglected children, to care for the community, and to advocate on behalf of children who have no voice. Accomplishing this mission means building bridges among friends in government, local business, and private citizens."

Taking care of at-risk youth has never been a more daunting task for agencies such as Children's Home of Northern Kentucky. A growing number of children are entering out-of-home care, including foster care and residential treatment, due to abuse and neglect. An alarming number of youth are struggling with substance abuse and chemical dependency. An increasing number of school districts are seeking to expand school-based mental health services.

CHNK Director of Quality Assurance Julie Raia explained, "This is the time to update our legislators on current trends and to request their vigilance in keeping children a priority. The next General Session is just around the corner, and it's a budget session. While there are many uncertainties, we must do all we can to ensure continued, quality services to our youth."

The primary goal of the Legislative Reception, however, was to thank legislators for their support of the work done daily by Children's Home of Northern Kentucky and other youth-focused social services organizations in the area. Representatives from Brighton Center, Children's Law Center, DCC Center for Children and Families, Family Nurturing Center, and Holly Hill Children's Services were in attendance, along with employees and trustees from CHNK.

"I enjoyed sharing with our visitors the role of Children's Home of Northern Kentucky and how they can help bring needed services to our community," said Senator Schickel. "This was also an opportunity for legislators to express appreciation for the work of all the agencies represented."

Founded in 1882, Children's Home of Northern Kentucky operates two campuses – one in Burlington, KY and the other in Covington, KY's Devou Park. CHNK carries out its mission to be a community leader providing children and families opportunity and hope for better lives by offering residential and community-based treatment programs for abused, neglected, and at-risk children. Last year, the Home impacted nearly 700 children and families in more than 30 counties across the Commonwealth. Children's Home of Northern Kentucky is a member of the Children's Alliance, Kentucky's voice for at-risk children and families.



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For more information about Children's Home of Northern Kentucky, please visit [www.chnk.org](http://www.chnk.org) or contact Rick W. Wurth, Chief Executive Officer, at 859.292.4177 or 859.468.5418.

Photos:

*CHNK Schickel Raia Adams Wurth* – Kentucky State Senator John Schickel, CHNK Director of Quality Assurance Julie Raia, Children's Alliance Director Kathy Adams, CHNK Chief Executive Officer Rick Wurth

*CHNK McDaniel Schickel Mocker* – Kentucky State Senator Chris McDaniel, Kentucky State Senator John Schickel, John Mocker

*CHNK Garrison Adams McDaniel* - Covington Independent Public Schools Superintendent Alvin Garrison, Children's Alliance Director Kathy Adams, Kentucky State Senator Chris McDaniel