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For Immediate Release:

\$3.6M Renovation Project in Progress at CHNK

Covington, KY –For the first time in its 90 years perched high atop a hillside in Covington’s Devou Park, the administration building at Children’s Home of Northern Kentucky is undergoing an extensive renovation. The project, which will cost \$3.6 million to complete, includes renovating the lower level and first floor to accommodate a Therapeutic Day School. The school, a joint venture between CHNK and Covington Independent Public Schools, will allow for traditional academic services to be married with behavioral/ mental health treatment for adolescents.

In addition to the state-of-the-art classrooms, computer lab, and student learning kitchen planned for the day school, the second floor will be renovated to house CHNK’s administrative offices. The third floor – which was originally used as a nursery and later, as a storage area – will be transformed into a training and events center. A fire suppression system is being added throughout the building, as well as an elevator servicing all four floors of the building, wheelchair-accessible ramps, and ADA-compliant restrooms. Paul Hemmer Company is managing the extensive renovations.

"We are grateful and proud to have the opportunity to partner on the renovation and repurposing of this historic structure," said Paul W. Hemmer Jr., president of Paul Hemmer Company. "This will be a remarkable new building created inside an iconic shell and designed for 50 years of sustainable, carefree service in the 21st century. This will be one of the top ten projects of my career."

This isn’t the first time in CHNK’s 132-year history that its buildings have not met the changing needs of the community. In 1925, the Home was fast outgrowing its original space at 14th and Madison in downtown Covington. More children were being brought to its doorstep than the facility could accommodate. Rather than turning away these children and citing a lack of funds for expansion, though, CHNK’s Board of Trustees secured new property – in Devou Park – and began a ten-day fundraising campaign to raise the \$200,000 needed to build a new, larger structure. The campaign ran from May 15 to May 25, 1925 and consisted of over 300 volunteers knocking on the doors of neighbors and strangers alike to ask for funding support. Their efforts generated \$255,439 – roughly \$3.6M in today’s world, and the same amount needed to complete the renovation project.

"When the community needed an orphanage in the 1880s, CHNK was there," says Rick Wurth, CHNK Chief Executive Officer. "And 100 years later, when the community needed shelter for orphans of the living – children who were victims of abuse, neglect, and trauma – CHNK was there with residential and community-based treatment services. And now, with the drug epidemic overwhelming Northern Kentucky, the community needs extensive services catered towards adolescent behavioral health, specifically, substance use disorders treatment. And Team CHNK is ready to fill that need; we simply need to make sure our buildings serve our programming needs."

Renovation work relevant to the therapeutic day school should be completed in time for the beginning of the 2014-2015 academic year, with upper floors being completed in later months. Throughout the process, CHNK’s clinical and administrative employees are working from other buildings on the Home’s two campuses.

"We know this renovation is necessary if our Home is to continue offering critically needed services to



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the wider community,” explains Wurth. “And we hope that we can once again count on the community’s support to help us launch this next chapter in CHNK’s history.”

Founded in 1882, Children’s Home of Northern Kentucky operates two campuses – one in Burlington, KY and the other in Covington, KY. 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 over 400 children and families in 33 counties across the Commonwealth. CHNK 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 or contact Rick W. Wurth, Chief Executive Officer, at 859.292.4177 or 859.468.5418.