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For Immediate Release:

Annual CHNK Charity Ball Goes Hollywood for its 78th Year

Covington, KY –It will be a night filled with glitz and glamour as the 78th Annual Charity Ball goes Hollywood on Saturday, November 15. The event, hosted by the Junior Board of Children's Home of Northern Kentucky and co-sponsored by Mercedes-Benz of Ft. Mitchell and Ameriprise Private Wealth Advisor Scott Brooks, helps to raise critically needed funding for the residential treatment program operated by the Home – a program that now includes substance use disorder treatment for adolescents.

Variations of the Charity Ball have been held nearly every year since the Junior Board was first established in 1935; the only year that did not boast a Charity Ball was 1937, when the tri-state was recovering from massive flooding along the Ohio River. Historical documents note that early event proceeds were used to purchase curtains, blankets, and towels. Now, however, the event supports the more sophisticated therapeutic needs of the youth coming to CHNK for treatment.

“CHNK stands at the forefront of addressing new behavioral health and addiction treatment needs for Northern Kentucky. We're empowered to provide those desperately needed services precisely because of such community support arising from our Junior Board and events like the annual Charity Ball,” shares Rick Wurth, CHNK's chief executive officer.

To many in the community, the Junior Board is predominantly known for pulling together the Charity Ball. But Wurth is quick to point that the work of the Junior Board reaches far beyond coordinating this annual prestigious gathering. He reflects, “The ladies of our Junior Board stand in a proud tradition of businesswomen, entrepreneurs, activists, mothers, and philanthropists making time in their busy schedules to put the children of CHNK on their priority list.”

Throughout the year, the ladies of the Junior Board work closely with CHNK's activities coordinator and recreation therapist to make sure the youth living in residential treatment have experiences that help create a sense of normalcy. They coordinate basketball tournaments, summer picnics, and fall festivals. They hand deliver birthday cards and treats for each resident on his birthday. They join the residents for Thanksgiving dinner, often serving as the only ‘family’ in attendance with them. In short, they put a very human touch on what can be a very clinical treatment program.

Current Junior Board president and Union resident Nhien Lange attributes the long-running accomplishments of the volunteer group to a shared commitment among the board's 20 members to keep the legacy of the Junior Board alive.

“Our members come from all over Northern Kentucky, from all walks of life,” says Lange. “We all have families and careers and commitments that require our time and attention, but we also know we're having direct impact on kids in need through the work we do at CHNK. So it's exciting for us to play such an instrumental role in CHNK's vibrant history and to be able to pull together an event like the Charity Ball, which has become part of the very fabric of this community.”

This year's Charity Ball includes the presentation of a Lifetime Achievement Award to Fort Wright resident Mary Jean Giltner, who joined the Junior Board in 1966 and has stayed connected to CHNK



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ever since, regularly introducing new friends and benefactors to the Home.

"It's easy to introduce people to the Home since I feel such a connection to it," explains Giltner. "I've always thought it is such a good environment for the children it serves ... the staff do such beautiful work."

Mary Jean will be one of approximately 250 guests to attend the 2014 Charity Ball, held this year in the International Ballroom of the CVG Airport Marriott. Festivities kick off at 6:30 p.m. with red carpet arrivals and a social hour complete with open bar and hors d'oeuvres. Dinner with wine service begins promptly at 7:30 p.m., followed by a live auction hosted by professional auctioneer Susan Johnson, who also serves as the event's Mistress of Ceremonies. This year's live auction items include a European vacation courtesy of Mercedes-Benz of Ft. Mitchell, use of PNC Bank's Great American Ball Park suite at a 2015 Cincinnati Reds game, and a gourmet four-course dinner for ten prepared by Jeff Thomas Catering. A silent auction, photo booth, gaming, raffles, and music by Big Daddy Walker Productions will also take place throughout the evening.

A limited number of individual tickets to the Charity Ball are available for \$100.00 each. They can be purchased through November 7 by calling the CHNK Office for Development at 859.292.4135 or placing an order online at www.chnk.org/charityball.

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 with 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 700 children and families in 36 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.