



**Media Contact:**  
Rick W. Wurth, CEO  
859.292.4177 (o)  
859.468.5418 (c)  
rwurth@chnk.org

**For Immediate Release:**

**CHNK Recognized by HRC as a Leader in Serving LGBTQ Youth  
Agency to Receive National "Seal of Recognition" for  
Commitment to LGBTQ Population**

*Covington, KY April 14, 2016* – The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation, the educational arm of the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights organization, announced today that Children's Home of Northern Kentucky (CHNK) has earned the foundation's All Children—All Families seal of recognition for its commitment to supporting and serving LGBTQ youth.

The All Children – All Families (ACAF) initiative, launched in 2007, seeks to enhance LGBTQ cultural competence among child welfare professionals and to educate LGBTQ people about opportunities to become foster or adoptive parents to waiting children. To date, ACAF has over 95 participating agencies across the country and has awarded 60 seals of recognition. Children's Home of Northern Kentucky becomes the first child welfare agency in the Commonwealth of Kentucky to receive this distinction.

The agency is simultaneously launching a trauma-informed approach to care utilizing the internationally recognized Sanctuary Model, which emphasizes safety and the roles that emotion and loss can play in creating healthy change. CHNK is working toward Sanctuary certification over a three-year implementation cycle.

"CHNK's leadership in providing culturally-sensitive services to LGBTQ youth is one aspect of our overall approach in creating an environment that is safe and supportive for all our families and clients," said Rick Wurth, CHNK Chief Executive Officer.

The seal of recognition will be officially unveiled on Wednesday, April 20 by local HRC representatives during a public event to honor CHNK for this accomplishment. The event, scheduled to take place on the front lawn of CHNK's Devou Park campus at 11:30 a.m., will also include brief remarks by Jim Obergefell, who became the lead plaintiff in the Supreme Court case that ultimately led to marriage equality across the United States.

Children's Home of Northern Kentucky earned the honor by meeting HRC's criteria for fully-inclusive policies and practices in working with the LGBTQ community. The HRC Foundation's All Children—All Families initiative provides a comprehensive framework, from client non-discrimination policies to staff training, that assists agencies like CHNK in establishing policies and practices that welcome, support, and affirm LGBTQ youth and in implementing ongoing efforts to improve LGBTQ competence.

With 400,000 children in the nation's foster care system and a disproportionately high number who identify as LGBTQ, there is an urgent need to increase the capacity of child welfare agencies to competently serve these youth.

"We are thrilled to welcome Children's Home of Northern Kentucky into the community of child welfare organizations that are truly committed to supporting and serving the LGBTQ youth in their



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care," said Ellen Kahn. "The child welfare professionals at CHNK are shining examples of how to prioritize efforts to improve practice with LGBTQ youth."

Children's Home of Northern Kentucky specializes in behavioral health, mental health, and substance use treatment for adolescents and their families. Programs include Residential (campus-based) Treatment, Intensive Outpatient, and Outpatient (community-based, school-based, and in-home) Services. An experienced team of healthcare professionals uses an array of treatment interventions to best meet the needs of each individual youth. Personalized intervention plans and continuity of care are emphasized. Accredited by the national Council on Accreditation, CHNK has served the Northern Kentucky community and Commonwealth of Kentucky for over 134 years.

The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against LGBT citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all.

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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.

More information about the HRC Foundation's All Children – All Families initiative can be found at [www.hrc.org/acaf](http://www.hrc.org/acaf).