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## **Children, Inc. Announces New Chief Operating Officer** New Role to Supplement Executive Team as Agency Plans New Growth, Innovation

Covington, KY – Earlier this week, Children, Inc. confirmed the hire of a new chief operating officer to oversee programs across the agency. Shannon Starkey-Taylor, MSW/M.Ed will work both with Chief Executive Officer Rick Hulefeld and with other key management to support daily operations. Starkey-Taylor’s responsibilities include oversight of operations, administrative and reporting procedures, strategies and people systems. She starts January 4, 2016.

Starkey-Taylor has specialized in the early childhood, education, and social work fields for more than 22 years. Prior to joining Children, Inc., she was the chief operating officer at Rettsyndrome.org, which is the world's leading private provider of research and family support services for individuals affected with Rett Syndrome. Prior to Rettsyndrome.org, she was the Vice President of Strategic Development at Children’s Home of Cincinnati, where she was responsible for new program development, marketing and ensuring the agency met their strategic goals. She has provided leadership in many children’s social service initiatives, including Help Me Grow, Every Child Succeeds, Success by 6, and Ohio’s Early Childhood Cabinet Fiscal Workgroup. Furthermore, she was instrumental in founding The Consortium for Resilient Young Children and was the past chair of this community collaboration.

She says of her transition, “Children, Inc. has been at the forefront of early childhood education for years. I’m excited to join this talented team and look forward to working with them to continue growing the organization.”

Hulefeld adds, “What Shannon brings to the table enables Children, Inc. to get smarter, faster, and better in our work with children and families. Her remarkable experience is a testament to this, and a promise of more good things to come. She is a great addition to our team.”

Children, Inc., a United Way Agency Partner, provides high quality, readily accessible child care, preschool and school-aged education programs with an emphasis on family success. Founded in 1977 in northern Kentucky as an early childhood learning center, Children, Inc. has become an innovative network of education and development centers with additional built-in resources such as: home-based visitation for young mothers, service learning programs, professional resources and training, advocacy, and research-based music production. Learn more at [www.childreninc.org](http://www.childreninc.org).

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