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## **Children, Inc., and Visions Community Services Announce Merger**

*Cincinnati, Ohio: July 25, 2012* – Children, Inc., a leader in high-quality early childhood programs and resources for educators, and Visions Community Services, a full-service provider of programs for young children and their parents, today announced a decision to merge operations. The two nonprofit organizations will implement a transition plan during the fourth quarter of 2012 and merge into a single entity on Jan. 1, 2013. The combined agency will be headed by current Children, Inc., Executive Director Rick Hulefeld.

Visions' Board President, Russell Schnurr, said, "We are excited about this new chapter in our organization. Both agencies share a common commitment to children and families and to quality education as the pathway to success. Joining our two organizations opens more opportunities to better serve families on both sides of the Ohio River. We're confident that Visions' legacy and its future are in good hands."

Rick Hulefeld, Children, Inc.'s, executive director agreed. "This is a union of two long-standing, collaborative and financially sound agencies that have the best interests of children at their core," he said. "Our partnership allows for a broader, deeper impact across our community. The outstanding services that Visions has provided for the past 22 years complement the work of Children, Inc. Together we will provide comprehensive high-quality services for children and families in Greater Cincinnati."

As Children, Inc. takes responsibility for the operation of Visions' programs, they are committed to continuing to take care of the staff and parents that depend on these programs. The programming at Visions' Early Child Care Center in the West End of Cincinnati will remain the same.

While some of the details of the merger remain to be finalized, it is certain that Visions will retain its name, functioning as a program of Children, Inc. As competition and dependence on decreasing public- and private-sector funding and donations pose problems for all charities, the creation of this combined entity will ensure the ongoing delivery of critical services to the families who need them most.

The merger is made possible in part by a grant from the **United Way of Greater Cincinnati**, the purpose of which is to provide support for nonprofit agencies that are considering transition activities such as mergers, acquisitions, and consolidations.



### **About Visions Community Services**

VISIONS Community Services is a community-based organization committed to breaking the cycle of poverty by providing human services that strengthen families and promote self-sufficiency. Interactions with the families served, volunteers, funders and community partners reflect the core values of caring, respect, integrity and a commitment to excellence in all programs provided.



### **About Children, Inc.**

Children, Inc., offers nationally accredited child care and early childhood education programs in a variety of settings throughout Northern Kentucky for infants to school age children. It is Children, Inc.'s, mission to advance the success of young children by partnering with families, professionals and the community through exemplary services, training, research and advocacy. This mission is accomplished within a culture of innovation, collaboration and shared leadership.