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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 5, 2014

Julie Elkus to receive 2014 Charity in Action Award at Raising of the Green

Cincinnati, OH – (March 2014) – On March 15, Children, Inc. will present Julie Elkus with the 2014 Charity in Action Award at its annual fundraiser at the Bell Event Centre in Cincinnati. Hundreds will attend the event, which raises funds to support Children, Inc.'s efforts in the community to break the cycle of poverty for working families and to offer quality child care. With the ever-changing dynamic of our urban core, there are families and children who still need help in downtown neighborhoods.

This year, Julie Elkus has been named honorary event chair and recipient of the fifth annual Charity in Action Award. This distinctive award preserves the legacy of the Dominican Sisters of the Sick Poor as street workers supporting the poor and sick in the West End and Over the Rhine. It is awarded to those who exemplify the values of both Children, Inc. and Visions Early Learning Center by serving their communities and those in need, demonstrating a belief in the dignity of each person and living out strong family values.

Julie will be recognized at the Raising of the Green for working tirelessly to create a better community and for her vision for a better future for families, and for her many years of service to Visions. In addition to co-founding Reading for Life, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting literacy in low-income households with young children, Julie wrote the children's story "When My Mama Reads to Me," which has been published in English and Spanish. Over 80,000 books have been distributed free of charge through child care programs, Head Start programs, public preschools, and pediatric offices. Julie is currently the Director of Innovation and Design at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

Children, Inc., a United Way Agency Partner, merged with VISIONS Community Services (now Visions Early Learning Center) on January 1, 2013. For more than 25 years, Children, Inc. and Visions have focused on breaking the cycle of poverty by strengthening families and promoting self-sufficiency. By providing quality early child development programs and support services for at-risk families in our community, children are prepared to succeed in school and families are strengthened; a quality unique to the work of these now united organizations.

Tickets for the event are \$100 per person, or \$1200 to sponsor a table. Young professionals are encouraged to attend at a discounted price of \$50. For more information about the event please visit <http://raisingofthegreen2014.eventbrite.com> or contact Jordan Huizenga at (859) 431-2075 or jhuizenga@childreninc.org.

- Who: Children, Inc.
- What: Raising of the Green - a black tie dinner gala with live and silent auctions
- Where: Bell Event Centre
- When: March 15 at 6:00 p.m.
- Why: To raise funds and to recognize Julie Elkus
- How: <http://www.raisingofthegreen2014.eventbrite.com>

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