

## For Immediate Release

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### **New President/Chief Executive Officer for 120 Year-Old Organization**



TAMPA, FL – The Children's Home, Inc. (CHI), now in its 120<sup>th</sup> year, is excited to announce that after several long months, and review of over 200 interested persons who submitted resumes, the Board of Directors of The Children's Home is very pleased to announce the selection of Irene K. Rickus as the new President/Chief Executive Officer of CHI and its affiliated entities.

Irene is the former Executive Director of The Harbor in Pasco County, and has left her position as the Chief Operating Officer of Kids Central to join CHI. "As a Board of Directors, we are extremely confident in Irene's ability to provide the necessary leadership and vision to position CHI as a leader and innovator of programs and services for the children and families we serve." said Karl M. Schmitz, III, Chairman of the Board of Directors. "Her passion for the well-being of children and families is extraordinary. Her recognition as a leader, both within the state and nationally will assist in future opportunities for the expansion of our already excellent provision of services."

"I am thrilled to be joining such a fine organization," said President/CEO, Irene Rickus. "I am looking forward to working with the Board of Directors, the staff, volunteers, donors and our community partners in serving those in need in our local communities. Organizations like The Children's Home can make such a difference for children and families struggling with the stressors of abuse, neglect and poverty."

Irene earned her master's degree in counseling psychology at Nova University and her bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of South Florida. She holds a license as a mental health counselor in the state of Florida. She joined The Children's Home on November 14, 2011.

#### **About The Children's Home, Inc. ([www.childrenshome.org](http://www.childrenshome.org))**

The Children's Home, Inc., now in its 120<sup>th</sup> year, is an accredited, community supported, 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, that has operated child and family-centered programs in the Tampa Bay. The Children's Home's mission is to strengthen communities through programs that support, serve and protect children and their families. Our programs help nearly 13,000 children and adults each year. Our services include, Strengthening Families for over 11,000 parents and children each year at four locations providing family support, outreach, and prevention services throughout the Tampa Bay area; Finding & Supporting Forever Families for over 1000 parents and children through therapeutic and traditional foster homes, and kinship services; and Healing the Trauma of Abuse and Neglect for nearly 800 children and adults. Children served through our residential healing campus (120 children each year) learn how to set boundaries, goals and have healthy relationships with loving adults. In addition we serve children and adults in our outpatient mental health program, *Community Counseling Services*.

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