

FOR IMMEDIATE NEWS RELEASE

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THE CHILDREN'S GUILD FOUNDATION EMBARKS ON 100th ANNIVERSARY WITH \$100,000 GIFT TO WNY COMMUNITY

Purpose and Passion Grant to Support Programs and Services for Children with Special Needs

Buffalo, NY -- November 17, 2009 -- The Children's Guild Foundation kicks off its 100th anniversary with an announcement on Tuesday, November 17th at 10:30 am of a special **\$100,000 Purpose & Passion Grant** to the Western New York community focused on raising awareness of opportunities and issues facing children with special needs and their families.

Foundation officials will make their announcement at the site of their new offices at the Larkin at Exchange Building, 726 Exchange Street, Buffalo. Those in attendance at the announcement include directors of the Foundation board, representatives of its corporate partners, KeyBank and Wegmans, as well as non-profit agencies that provide programs and services to special needs children and their families. Nicholas Lake, a young community leader with cerebral palsy, will speak on behalf of these children who benefit from the many programs and services that exist throughout Western New York.

Incorporated in 1910, **The Children's Guild Foundation** funds non-profit organizations within the eight counties of Western New York that provide programs and services for special needs children in the areas of healthcare, research, education and therapeutic recreation. The Foundation also seeks to effect change, provide opportunities, and promote inclusion & diversity for children with special needs and their families by advocating on their behalf. In addition, the Foundation funds research initiatives, both locally and nationally, which concentrate in the area of pediatric developmental disabilities.

"Through our current funding, over 3,000 children with special needs and their families across Western New York are annually afforded opportunities that affect their lives for the better. But, there is still much more that can be accomplished," said James A. Bourne, chair of the Foundation board of directors. "The Children's Guild Foundation is acknowledging its 100th year serving the community by granting a special

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\$100,000 Purpose & Passion Grant award to an organization or collaborative effort that embodies the Foundation's vision for the future within its focus areas of healthcare, research, education and therapeutic recreation. It is our hope to use our 100th Anniversary year (2010) as a catalyst to energize the Western New York community around the issues, both positive and negative, that our children and their families face every day," added Bourne. "We pay tribute to all those who have supported the Foundation during our 100 year history and take seriously our responsibility to invest their donations wisely and conscientiously to well-run programs and services that are achieving measurable results. Our funding is focused so that all children with challenges may achieve their highest potential," Bourne continued.

The recipient(s) of the "\$100,000 Purpose and Passion Grant" will be announced at the Foundation's 100th Anniversary Celebration Event in the fall of 2010. In addition, at the event the Foundation will honor individuals and groups for their exceptional contributions to the community of special needs children. These recipients will receive a one-time \$1,000 grant to be given to a nonprofit organization of their choice working in the field of special needs. The 100th Anniversary event will be designed to foster an environment of shared success and commitment to the focus of children with special needs. It will also highlight activities and showcase role models within the areas of medical, behavioral, developmental, learning and mental health.

For more information, please visit: www.thechildrensguild.org

Or call: (716) 362-9650 or (716) 430-5894.

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