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Governor Quinn Launches Pledge to Support Child Abuse Prevention

Illinois Blue Bow Committee Launches Awareness Campaign to Protect Illinois Children

(CHICAGO) – In an effort to stamp out child abuse in Illinois, Governor Pat Quinn joins Children’s Home + Aid and the Illinois Blue Bow Committee to create the Governor’s Pledge. The Governor’s Pledge, launched in April for Child Abuse Prevention Month, urges the public to take an active role in the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

To sign the Governor’s Pledge, please visit www.childrenshomeandaid.org/govpledge

“No child should ever feel unloved or alone,” Governor Quinn said. “Abusing or neglecting children can cause tremendous psychological and developmental damage. I’m asking everyone across the state to sign my Governor’s Pledge and support the protection of Illinois’ children. We must end abuse and neglect now and protect every child’s innocence.”

The Blue Bow Campaign will kick-off Child Abuse Prevention Month at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 2nd, with a Blue Bow Ceremony at Fourth Presbyterian Church, at 126 E. Chestnut Street.

Throughout the month of April, Blue Bow ceremonies and activities across the state will bring communities together to address the issues of abuse and neglect. For a full listing of Blue Bow events, please visit www.childrenshomeandaid.org/events

For his long-term commitment to Illinois’ children, Governor Quinn will also receive the Blue Bow Award at the Champions for Children Luncheon in May. Children’s Home + Aid hosts this annual event to celebrate individuals and organizations working to improve the lives of Illinois’ most vulnerable children, youth and families.

About the Blue Bow Campaign

Since 1989, the national Blue Bow Campaign has existed to raise awareness of child abuse and prevention. The Illinois Blue Bow Committee, run by Children’s Home + Aid and a partnership of social and community service organizations, has annually hosted dozens of events throughout the month of April – the nation’s Child Abuse Prevention Month. The purpose of these events is to bring attention to the prevalence of child abuse in Illinois and to educate the public about resources available in our communities to help parents and children prevent abuse. In 2012, Illinois had 26,537 reported cases of child abuse, 15,590 families who indicated the presence of abuse in their homes, and 90 child deaths as a result of abuse. For more information on the Blue Bow Campaign and how prevention can help, please visit www.childrenshomeandaid.org/bluebowcampaign2013

About Children’s Home + Aid

Children’s Home + Aid is a leading child and family service agency in Illinois. Each year, it protects, educates and counsels more than 40,000 children, youth and families to overcome the overwhelming obstacles of poverty, abuse and neglect. The dedicated team of staff and volunteers deliver more than 70 programs including foster care, adoption services, early childhood education, family counseling, and youth services in 40 Illinois counties. For 130 years, Children’s Home + Aid has been a compassionate

advocate helping to shape public policy around early childhood, child welfare and juvenile justice. For more information about Children's Home + Aid, visit childrenshomeandaid.org.

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