



children's home + aid

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Healthy Families Illinois DeKalb County Advisory Council Forms
For the Benefit of Helping DeKalb County Moms**

DeKalb, IL. (October 6, 2010) The Healthy Families Illinois program provides services for first time parents in DeKalb county who have been identified by the DeKalb County Health Department as “at risk” for abuse and neglect. The program has served more than 700 women/families since opening in 2002, and currently carries an average caseload of 30 families. Each family receives a weekly family visit from the case worker. They learn how to better parent their child, receive referral services, are assisted in getting all of their prenatal care and after the child is born, they receive assistance and guidance in securing their child’s wellness check-ups and inoculations.

Four individuals have stepped forward to lead the program to new resources and community awareness opportunities. Those individuals are: Ken Donald, Circulation Manager, The Daily Chronicle; Mazen Nagy, Academic Advisor, NIU; Heather Wiedrich, CEO DeKalb Area + Sauk Valley Association of Realtors®; and Brad Hoey, Spokesperson for the NIU President. “Creating awareness through advocacy and securing resources for a program that helps so many families is critical to the HFI program’s success,” states program supervisor ,Margo Sutorious. She continues, “We are thrilled to have this opportunity to have four outstanding community leaders as founders of our newly developed Healthy Families Illinois, DeKalb County Advisory Council.” The council will meet monthly at the DeKalb/Sycamore Realty Association.

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 improve their lives. Since 1883, Children’s Home + Aid has been a compassionate advocate helping to shape public policy in child welfare, early childhood and juvenile justice. Children’s Home + Aid is recognized for establishing best practices and achieving outstanding results through its programs and services that focus on child abuse prevention, healthy child development and strengthening families.

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Headquartered in Rockford, the Northern Region of Children's Home + Aid is devoted to serving the area's most challenged communities. The Northern Region of Children's Home + Aid provides services in many of the counties in Northern Illinois, including DeKalb. Services encompass the needs of the entire family, and include *adoption preservation, child and family counseling, MotherHouse Crisis Nursery, Pregnancy and Early Parent Counseling, Healthy Families Illinois, foster care, and family support services*. Children's Home + Aid's comprehensive, quality programs help children and families overcome the obstacles of poverty, abuse, and neglect to achieve healthy family structures and self-sufficiency.

For more information about Children's Home + Aid, visit www.childrenshomeandaid.org.

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