



PRESS RELEASE

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CHILDNET ANNOUNCES NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Ft. Lauderdale, FL – During the last few months, ChildNet’s Board of Directors has been immersed in an extensive nationwide search for the agency’s permanent Chief Executive Officer. This past Friday, faced with several outstanding candidates, the Board selected local attorney, Emilio Benitez to assume this vital position.

Emilio Benitez has been active in children’s advocacy efforts locally and statewide for more than a decade. Emilio was the first Chair of ChildNet’s Board of Directors. He remained on the Board until earlier this year when he was appointed by Governor Charlie Crist to the Children’s Services Council of Broward. He is also a longtime member of Broward’s Juvenile Justice Board.

“His experience coupled with his passion to protect Broward’s most vulnerable children make Emilio ideal for this position,” said Howard Bakalar, Chair of ChildNet’s Board of Directors.

“ChildNet has made great strides in improving the child welfare system for the families and children of Broward County,” said Emilio Benitez. “I am excited about leading a team that strives each day to ensure that Broward’s abused, abandoned and neglected children receive the care, services and love that they need and deserve.

ChildNet is the private, not for profit organization selected by the state through a competitive process to serve as the local Community Based Care lead agency. As the lead agency, ChildNet manages the local system of services and supports for Broward’s abused, abandoned and neglected children and their caregivers. This system of care was developed with extensive input from local stakeholders and its effective implementation depends upon their continued support. For more information on ChildNet visit the Web site at www.ChildNet.us or call (954) 414-6000.

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