



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### ***CHILDNET DEVELOPS, UTILIZES LATEST WIRELESS TECHNOLOGIES TO BETTER SERVE THOUSANDS OF BROWARD COUNTY'S ABUSED CHILDREN***

PLANTATION, Fla. – ChildNet, the private, not for profit organization created to manage the child welfare system in Broward County, has teamed up with Verizon Wireless to develop and utilize its own specialized mobile communication software to provide more efficient and effective services to thousands of local abused, abandoned and neglected children.

The effort dramatically streamlines the paperwork and overall process that service providers must complete before, during and after visits with clients.

“In our field, paperwork is one of the biggest challenges because of the detailed reporting and administrative requirements,” said Dipak Parekh, ChildNet’s Chief Financial Officer. “We would much rather spend our time and resources working directly with children and families.

Emilio Benitez, ChildNet’s Chief Executive Officer, is equally excited about how this software will revolutionize the methods used to monitor children entrusted to their care. “Our passion for protecting Broward County’s abused, abandoned and neglected children combined with the security of the Verizon network enables us to serve and care for these children in efficient and effective ways,” said Benitez.

In addition to allowing for more time to provide direct care, counseling and other services to children and families in crisis, the new mobile software also eliminates the need to fill out, process, print and file hundreds of thousands of paper pages each year. This creates even greater short and long-term savings of financial and environmental resources. The technology also helps ChildNet better manage its Child Advocates who are responsible to make direct visits to children at home and in other locations. Through GPS tracking and transmitting photos during a session, a service visit is logged directly into the State of Florida database to document and ensure children entrusted to the agency’s care are safe and receiving the highest quality care.

“The ChildNet leadership and software team have shown great vision and talent to develop this system to serve the community,” said Pam Tope, Verizon Wireless Florida region president. “We’re extremely proud to work with ChildNet and put mobile technology and the advanced Verizon Wireless network to work for our community’s most vulnerable citizens.”

The ChildNet in-house technology team initially developed software to be used on 300 HTC Touch Pro smartphones, and currently is updating the platform to run on the Android mobile operating system. With Android, ChildNet can use a broad range of advanced handsets, along with tens of thousands of other powerful mobile applications to help service providers work more effectively and efficiently. ChildNet software also will run on laptop computers that connect securely to the internet with Verizon Wireless aircards, but the focus of the new system has been on the mobile handsets.

“Setting up even laptop can be difficult at times in some of the homes and locations visited by Child Advocates,” Parekh said. “Kids can be extremely active and easily distracted by the laptop or there might be some other challenge. It is so convenient and efficient to capture and send data by the handset. As phones are becoming more powerful hand-held computers themselves, our capabilities and efficiencies are going to advance even further.”

For information on ChildNet, visit [www.childnet.us](http://www.childnet.us). For more details on Verizon Wireless, go to [www.verizonwireless.com](http://www.verizonwireless.com).

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ChildNet is the private, not for profit organization that administers the child welfare system in Broward County. Its mission is to protect Broward’s abused, abandoned and neglected children. ChildNet manages the cases of approximately 2,000 children and their caregivers and delivers a comprehensive local system of care through subcontracts with more than 30 social service agencies. Since its founding in 2003, Broward County’s abused children are safer, their placements are more stable and they move to permanent, loving homes more quickly. ChildNet is accredited by the Council on Accreditation. For more information about ChildNet and its services, visit [www.ChildNet.us](http://www.ChildNet.us) or call (954) 414-6000.

Verizon Wireless operates the nation’s fastest and most advanced 4G network and largest and most reliable 3G network, and serves more than 93 million customers. Headquartered in Basking Ridge, N.J., with 80,000 employees nationwide, Verizon Wireless is a joint venture of Verizon Communications (NYSE, NASDAQ: VZ) and Vodafone (LSE, NASDAQ: VOD). For more information, visit [www.verizonwireless.com](http://www.verizonwireless.com). To preview and request broadcast-quality video footage and high-resolution stills of Verizon Wireless operations, log on to the Verizon Wireless Multimedia Library at [www.verizonwireless.com/multimedia](http://www.verizonwireless.com/multimedia).