



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release  
Thursday, October 16, 2008**

**Contact: Sasheika Eugent  
Community & Public Relations Specialist  
(954) 288-5161**

### **KEEPING SIBLINGS TOGETHER**

*Provider agency unveils group home for sibling groups*

Plantation, FL – One hundred and forty-three. That is the number of sibling groups in Broward County that are in the foster care system. Sibling group size can range from a pair of brothers or sisters to a very large group of five or more children. It is becoming increasingly difficult to identify foster families that can accommodate sibling groups. Children's Harbor, one of ChildNet's provider agencies, has answered the call to serve this group. On October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:30p.m., Children's Harbor and the City of Pembroke Pines will host a ribbon cutting ceremony and will open the doors to two new residential homes designed specifically for sibling groups in the foster care system. The event will be held on the Children's Harbor campus at 19425 SW 58<sup>th</sup> Manor in Pembroke Pines.

"These children have already been through so much that it is imperative that they don't experience any further disturbance," said Emilio Benitez, ChildNet Chief Executive Officer. "Children's Harbor is making sure that does not happen by having homes exclusively for sibling groups."

Since 1996, Children's Harbor has been a staple in the social service community, providing valuable resources to local foster children. Their recent undertaking will keep brothers and sisters together during the most difficult time of their lives. Children will receive immediate therapeutic interventions to address the issues that resulted in removal from their homes. The homes are designed to provide a safe and nurturing atmosphere as well as provide a traditional family environment for children to grow.

For more information about the sibling group home or to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony, contact Tracy Butler, Children's Harbor Development Coordinator at (954) 252-3072.

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](http://www.ChildNet.us) or call (954) 414-6000.

###