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BB&T Lighthouse Project Volunteers Design and Paint Murals for Children in Foster Care

BROWARD COUNTY (June, 2015) – To provide a sense of comfort and security for kids visiting with their families, ChildNet, the Community Based Care lead agency in Broward County, teamed up with BB&T to decorate and furnish seven visitation rooms at ChildNet’s new office in Fort Lauderdale. In conjunction with the BB&T Lighthouse project, their contribution of 60 volunteers helped to fund the artists, supplies and furnishings for the project.

“The time, money and dedication BB&T has put into this project will be appreciated by so many children in the child welfare system, as well as their families,” said Emilio Benitez, ChildNet president and CEO. “These rooms offer a safe, warm and calm environment for the children to spend quality time with their families and loved ones, and the work they have done here will help everyone who comes through those doors feel more comfortable and at ease.”

The murals were designed and outlined by four artists from ArtServe, and each room was based on a classic children’s book including *The Cat in the Hat*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Goodnight Moon* and *Curious George*. BB&T Lighthouse Project volunteers helped each artist paint the walls to complete the beautifully decorated rooms.

The BB&T Lighthouse Project, celebrating six years of company-wide dedication to service and volunteerism to make a difference in the communities they serve, is a long-time supporter of ChildNet.

As the single private non-profit entity responsible for administration of the local child welfare systems in Broward and Palm Beach counties, ChildNet brings years of dedication to protecting abused, abandoned and neglected children in the communities it serves.

For more information about ChildNet and naming opportunities at the new facility, call ChildNet in Broward County at 954-414-6000. Visit www.ChildNet.us and www.facebook.com/ChildNet.

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CUTLINES:

Photo 1 (L to R): Monica King, ChildNet; Jason Aube, BB&T; Nanci Campbell, BB&T; Mike Oster, BB&T; Emilio Benitez, ChildNet

Photo 2 (L to R): All representing ArtServe: Millie Wright, Janie Casoria, Nadine Floyd and Lori Pratico

Photo 3 (L to R): Lakeesha Wilson; Alexa Phillips; Janet Saller; Erin Barrows; Francine Chong

Photo 4 (L to R): Jaye Abbate, president and CEO of ArtServe; Carrie Bennett, ArtServe

Photo 5 (L to R): Mark Mareel; Jim Paryz; Nelsy DeMartini; Mike Oster; Jaye Abbate, president and CEO of ArtServe

Photo 6 (L to R): Rolando Arauz; Nanci Campbell; Mariella Pelati-Morandi; Anne Dauria; Vindra Gobin; Diana Verity; Michelle Tandon

Photo 7 (L to R): Emmanuel Bruno; Mark Krill; Richard Carlton; Nicole Ashley

ABOUT CHILDNET:

ChildNet is the Community-Based Care (CBC) lead agency in Broward and Palm Beach counties and is the single private non-profit entity responsible for administration of the local child welfare systems in each county. It fulfills this responsibility by managing comprehensive networks of child welfare services providers and, in Broward, by also serving as the single centralized child welfare case management provider. The agency's mission is to protect abused, abandoned and neglected children in the communities it serves. Fulfillment of this mission requires constant input and support from community stakeholders and service providers. For more information about ChildNet, please visit www.ChildNet.us and www.facebook.com/ChildNet or call 954-414-6000