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**Children's Hospice International Gears up for 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
*Non-profit launches international pediatric palliative/hospice care resource directory*

Alexandria, VA — Children's Hospice International (CHI) today celebrates 20 years of meeting the needs of children with life-threatening conditions and their families by launching an online international resource directory to provide families seeking pediatric palliative and hospice care worldwide with much-needed resources. This extensive source of service information can now be found at [www.chionline.org](http://www.chionline.org).

Currently listing over 2000 points of contact in more than seventy countries, this unique directory will be continually updated to make it the most comprehensive directory of programs serving children with life-threatening conditions and their families. A sampling of these references include the Belarusian Children's Hospice in Minsk, Belarus; Very Special Kids and North Haven Hospice in Australia; Palliative Care Foundation of Costa Rica; Blessed Gerard Care Center in South Africa; The Pain & Palliative Society in India; the Marian and Elie Wiessel Children's Pavilion in Israel; the King Fahad National Center for Children's Cancer in Saudi Arabia; Children's Cancer Foundation in Singapore; and the Hope Street Kids in Alexandria, Virginia.

Largely because of the pioneering efforts of CHI and its Founding Director, Ann Armstrong-Dailey, almost all of the more than 3000 adult hospices in the United States today will consider accepting children. "Barriers to appropriate and sufficient healthcare for children with life-threatening conditions and their families still exist; however, and we are continually striving to eliminate these barriers" said Armstrong-Dailey.

To further reduce these obstacles, CHI—with technical assistance from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and Congress—initiated the CHI Program for All-Inclusive Care for Children and Their Families<sup>®</sup> (CHI PACC<sup>®</sup>). CHI PACC<sup>®</sup> is a budget-neutral program designed to begin at the time of diagnosis and offer a continuum of care and treatment, with hope for cure, and through bereavement if cure is not attained.

CHI recently "partnered" with Walter Reed Army Medical Center through a FY2002 DoD appropriation to develop a program specifically designed for military families, based on CHI PACC<sup>®</sup> standards and core principles, for the DoD Health Care System.

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