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## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### CHILDREN'S FORUM CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

**TALLAHASSEE, FL (June 30, 2009)** –The Children's Forum is celebrating 20 years of service to early care and education and school-age professionals who strive for the best possible learning outcomes for children. As a statewide, not-for-profit membership organization, the Forum believes that the child care workforce holds the keys to successful futures for children.

The Forum has an organizational history that is grounded in the development of principles, programs and policies that continue to serve early childhood education and school-age professionals in Florida. With a mission to provide leadership and advocacy for high quality, affordable and available early care and education for all children, the Forum has remained unchanged since its founding in 1989. Today, the Forum continues to serve as an organization with an uncompromising vision to make Florida a quality child caring state.

"It is so important to invest in those who care for and nurture our children daily through educational opportunities and compensation supports," said Phyllis Kalifeh, president and CEO of the Children's Forum. "Plus, we know that better prepared and fairly compensated practitioners provide higher quality classroom environments resulting in better outcomes for young children. Throughout our history, the Forum has helped to ensure that children in Florida grow and thrive."

Governor Charlie Crist congratulated the Children's Forum on their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In a letter sent to the Forum, Crist stated: "It is a pleasure to congratulate the Children's Forum on the occasion of your 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of supporting quality child care and early learning services in

Florida. Our young people are our greatest resources, and their education is our best insurance of a healthy and prosperous future.”

The Forum will continue to provide research, advocacy, training, professional development and classroom assessment services to the early care and education field. The Forum continues to assess the needs of the field and adapt to the changing landscape which is especially valued during these challenging economic times.

For more information about the Children’s Forum, please contact Jenna Jacobsen-Brown, communications director, at 850-487-6344 or [jjbrown@thechildrensforum.com](mailto:jjbrown@thechildrensforum.com).

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