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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**November 20, 2017****ChildPromise, Inc. Collaborates with Local Colleges, Universities and Trade Schools to Support Former Foster Children Through Partnerships and #SHARETHECARE**

The mission of ChildPromise, Inc. is to change the current statistic that only 1% of children in the foster care system will go onto higher education/credentialization to match the overall 30% of higher education achievement for all Americans.

Philadelphia, PA – For many years, ChildPromise Inc., formerly Baptist Children's Services, Inc., has been supporting and encouraging current and former foster children to pursue higher education or a trade. Today, with the support of donors, volunteers and community partners, ChildPromise, Inc. is making a difference by raising funds for higher education scholarships and credentialing opportunities for current and former foster youth.

ChildPromise, Inc., based in Philadelphia, has entered into partnering agreements with local colleges, universities and trade schools to assist young people who age out of the foster care system and are attending institutions of higher education and trade schools. On campus programs for former foster students include academic and personal coaching, financial literacy workshops, and peer mentoring services. Students are connected with on-campus jobs, many of which include work hours over semester breaks, as well as year-round housing for students. Additional opportunities can include funding for study abroad and cultural trips to places such as DC, NYC and Philadelphia. Staff and graduate assistants at local universities and colleges meet regularly with all former foster students to support academic performance and success.

Of the more than 20,000 youth aging out of the foster care system nationally each year, 1100 age out in Pennsylvania. Statistically, individuals with a bachelor's degree earn an additional \$1M in lifetime earnings than those who don't have a bachelor's degree. Health outcomes are better, and the incarceration rate is lower for bachelor's level citizens. These facts provide proof that more assistance is needed to guide foster care youth towards college completion. Providing opportunities for postsecondary education completion for foster care youth aging out of the system will improve health outcomes and minimize incarceration rates, among other things.

To further support their success ChildPromise has initiated #SHARETHECARE so that current and former foster children at colleges and universities who rarely receive a care package can now. We believe now is the time to #SHARE THE CARE. We ask that you consider sending care package(s) to a local university or college to be shared with a foster student on campus or make a donation to ChildPromise and we will send a care

package on your behalf. The contents of care packages will vary. Examples of items in care packages include non-perishable foods, notes of encouragement, toiletries, gift cards, movie admission tickets, and DVD/CDs.

“There has never been a more important time to support our young people. Simple things that some take for granted make a positive difference in the lives of foster children. Care packages will former foster children realize that people care about their well-being, as well as provide students with needed daily items” said Dr. Nathaniel J. Williams, President and Chief Executive Officer of ChildPromise, Inc.

College and universities that have agreed to accept care packages directly are listed below:

Kutztown University

Susan Mangold
Office of the Dean of Students
Kutztown University
119 Stratton Administration Center
Kutztown, PA 19530

West Chester University

Zebulun Davenport, Ed.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs
West Chester University
Sykes Union 238
700 South High Street
West Chester, PA 19383

Lafayette College

Annette Diorio, Ed.D.
Vice President for Campus Life and Dean of Students
Lafayette College
Feather House 203
730 High St
Easton, PA 18042

Chestnut Hill College

Lynn Ortale, Ph.D.
Vice President of Student Life
Chestnut Hill College
Fournier 142
9601 Germantown University
Philadelphia, PA 19118

For more information, visit <http://www.childpromise.org/share-the-care/>.

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