



Sunrise Children's Services
300 Hope Street • PO Box 1429 • Mt. Washington, KY 40047 • www.sunrise.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Brandi Felser
bfelser@sunrise.org
(502) 538-1000 (office)

Sunrise Board Keeps Hiring Practice

Mt. Washington, KY (November 8, 2013)- The Board of Directors of Sunrise Children's Services has voted to make no changes to the organization's current hiring practices. Therefore, Sunrise Children's Services will continue the practice of informing applicants that the organization does not hire gay people.

"Let us be clear about this vote," said Joyce Smith, Chairman of the Sunrise Board of Directors. "With this decision, we are not promoting anything other than the physical, mental, and spiritual welfare of our children. We remain focused on our mission of providing love and support to the victimized children that Sunrise serves and our decision today will not affect the everyday care Sunrise provides to families and children."

William Smithwick, CEO of Sunrise, says the Board understands and respects the position of those who will not like this decision.

"For those that do not agree with our practice, we understand and we would love to have you join us in putting the kids first and support our mission of helping the least among us; victimized children who need a safe haven and the chance to see love and experience hope," said Smithwick.

Sunrise contracts with the Commonwealth of Kentucky to provide services for young people who have been abused or neglected - children whose lives have been scarred by unspeakable physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. Sunrise receives approximately \$26 million from the Commonwealth to perform these services, and the Kentucky Baptist Convention donates one million dollars.

Smithwick also is hopeful that support remains strong to continue the mission of providing assistance to the fragile young people who have been served by the organization since 1869. “We need the assistance of caring people everywhere,” said Smithwick. “The number of children in out of home care in Kentucky exceeds 7,000. Sunrise cares for almost 400 of these kids daily and another 200 in other community based services.”

The goal of Sunrise Children’s Services is to provide a place of refuge, of hope, of love, and of healing to children whose lives have been devastated. For these children, Sunrise is a place where they can begin to feel safe, a place where they encounter adults who give unconditional love, a place where they can begin to learn that the world can be a good place.

For more information or to donate to Sunrise Children’s Services, visit www.sunrise.org.