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ChildFund International to Celebrate New Name

- ChildFund International is unveiling its sign July 10 on the side of the building that faces I-64 in Richmond, Va.
- Speakers include ChildFund President and CEO Anne Lynam Goddard and well-known wrestler Mick Foley, a donor since 1992.
- Entertainment includes presentations from two Richmond-based groups.

Richmond, Va. – July 8, 2009 – It’s been a mystery to travelers along Interstate 64 in Richmond for three weeks, but this week the tarp is coming off the building and the celebration of ChildFund International will begin.

ChildFund International, formerly Christian Children’s Fund, is holding a kickoff celebration of its new name and work with children at 11 a.m. Friday at its Richmond headquarters on Emerywood Parkway. At the event, the organization’s new sign on the side of the building facing I-64 will be unveiled.

“We will celebrate our new name and our continuing commitment to serving the world’s deprived, excluded and vulnerable children” said ChildFund International President and CEO Anne Lynam Goddard.

ChildFund International has served children since 1938 and currently helps more than 15.2 million children and family members in 31 countries. The official name change from Christian Children’s Fund to ChildFund International took place July 1.

Joining Goddard at the event will be longtime ChildFund donor, well-known wrestler and New York Times best-selling author Mick Foley, who in recent years has donated nearly \$300,000 for early childhood development centers, community centers and health clinics in rural areas of the Philippines and Mexico, and for the building of seven schools in war-torn Sierra Leone.

“From the moment I saw the picture of that first child in 1992, I knew I needed to be a sponsor,” said Foley, who now sponsors seven children. Foley exchanges letters on a regular basis with his sponsored children.

ChildFund donor and Richmond resident Jim Lindsey will also speak at Friday’s event. Lindsey, who is a retired Virginia Commonwealth University Religious Studies assistant professor, and his wife Carolyn have donated more than \$100,000 to ChildFund.

Entertainment on Friday includes performances from Richmond-based Ezibu Muntu African Dance and Cultural Foundation Inc. and SPARC (School of the Performing Arts in the Richmond Community). Tours of ChildFund’s Kenyan classroom, which features items from a ChildFund program in Africa, will be available.



"We believe that our proud past is a prologue," said Goddard. "The work we have done is just the beginning of the work we have yet to do."

The celebration of ChildFund International's new name continues at 7 p.m. Friday as "The Power to Play – from Trash to Treasure," an exhibit of toys created by children in ChildFund's programs, debuts at Page Bond Gallery in Richmond.

The collection of more than 350 toys shows real imagination and creativity by children for using locally available materials to design toys of all shapes and sizes that roll, float, peddle or strum.

The toys will be on display July 10 through Aug. 21 at the Page Bond Gallery, 1625 W. Main St. Friday's opening reception is from 7-9 p.m.

"ChildFund International has long recognized play as essential to childhood development, said Goddard. "We are sharing this toy collection as a visible demonstration of how the power to play helps children thrive and become leaders of enduring change in their communities and the world."

For more information about ChildFund International, visit www.ChildFund.org.

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ChildFund International is a global child development and protection agency, helping the world's deprived, excluded and vulnerable children survive and thrive in order to reach their full potential. Serving children since 1938, ChildFund International works in 31 countries and helps more than 15.2 million children and family members worldwide, regardless of race, creed or origin. ChildFund International is a member of the ChildFund Alliance. It has earned 4 stars from Charity Navigator.