

For Immediate Release

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**SmithBucklin Selected as 2009 Chicago Champion for Children
By The Children's Place Association**

CHICAGO – February 5, 2009 – The Children's Place Association announced today that SmithBucklin, the world's largest association management company, has been selected as its 2009 Chicago Champion for Children. The award, presented annually by The Children's Place Association, honors SmithBucklin for its work and advocacy on behalf of children, youth and families confronted by HIV/AIDS or other life-changing health conditions.

The Champion for Children award specifically recognizes and celebrates the crucial role businesses play in improving the lives of Chicago-area children and encourages the for-profit sector to continue investing in the community by investing in our children.

"SmithBucklin is a true 'Champion' in the lives of our children and their families," said Cathy Krieger, president and CEO of The Children's Place Association. "The company's continued support of our mission is making a positive impact on, and bringing hope to, the lives of children affected by HIV/AIDS."

Henry S. Givray, chairman and CEO of SmithBucklin, said, "We are grateful to be a part of The Children's Place Association family and are truly honored to receive this award. Since stewardship and service to others are deeply embedded in the SmithBucklin culture, our employees are not only intensely committed to the well-being of our client organizations, but also to charitable giving, which is a natural extension of who we are and what we believe."

Givray said SmithBucklin employees will continue to be actively involved in The Children's Place Association programs and services, including work with the children at the agency's Early Learning Center, participation in field trips and other programs that help prepare uniquely vulnerable children for future academic achievement.

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In addition to The Children's Place, SmithBucklin and its employees supported a number of other charitable organizations in 2008, including the Greater Chicago Food Depository; the Chicago Junior Chamber of Commerce Toy Drive; Miriam's Kitchen, So Others Might Eat (SOME), Horton's Kids and Turning the Page in Washington, D.C.; the March of Dimes; the American Red Cross; the Salvation Army; the American Heart Association; and the March of Dimes. The company's employees support organizations in various ways, including monetary donations, in-kind service donations, contributions of physical items such as clothes and toys, or simply the giving of one's time through volunteer work.

SmithBucklin will accept the 2009 Chicago Champion for Children award at The Children's Place Association's annual Once Upon a Time Gala April 4, 2009, at Chicago's Union Station.

For more information about the Once Upon a Time Gala, or to make a donation in honor of SmithBucklin's contributions, contact The Children's Place Association at 773-826-1230 or visit www.childrens-place.org.

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About SmithBucklin

SmithBucklin is the world's largest association management and professional services company providing flexible, tailored full-service management and function/project-specific services to more than 320 trade associations, professional societies, technology user groups, government institutes/agencies and corporations. SmithBucklin's mission is to drive growth and build sustained competitiveness for client organizations. Founded in 1949, the company employs 750 professionals specializing in all phases of association activity including executive management, member and chapter administration, convention and trade show management, marketing and branding, Web services, education and programs, government relations and financial management. SmithBucklin manages more than \$275 million in annual client budgets from offices in Chicago, Washington, DC, St. Louis, Durham, NC, and St. Paul, Minn. SmithBucklin is 100% employee owned. For more information, please visit www.smithbucklin.com or call 1.800.539.9740.

About The Children's Place Association

The mission of The Children's Place Association is to improve the present and secure the future for children, youth and families confronted by HIV/AIDS or other life-changing health conditions. Founded in 1991, The Children's Place Association serves as a safe haven for children whose lives have been affected by HIV/AIDS through the Residential Center and Early Learning Center as well as Family & Community Services and Foster Care & Adoption programs. For more information on programs and services, visit www.childrens-place.org or call 773-826-1230.