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The Home for Little Wanderers and Wediko Children's Services Announce Merger

(Brighton, MA) – The Home for Little Wanderers and Wediko Children's Services announced today that they will merge. Combined, they will now serve children and families throughout Massachusetts, New Hampshire and New York with combined assets of \$140 million and over 1,000 employees.

“Wediko Children's Services and The Home for Little Wanderers share a mutual passion for and rich history of serving youth and families. Wediko's extensive programming in New Hampshire and New York complement the Home's holistic approach to serving vulnerable youth in Massachusetts. Their joint expertise in working with youth who have experienced trauma or other obstacles will allow the two organizations to expand needed services to vulnerable youth throughout the northeast,” said Lesli Suggs, President and CEO of The Home for Little Wanderers. “No child should grow up without a loving, permanent family. Helping vulnerable youth find permanency and achieve their full potential is at the core of both of our missions. We look forward to a collaborative partnership building opportunities and permanency for youth and families.”

The Home for Little Wanderers has provided a seamless continuum of vital programs and services for every stage of child and family development for more than 200 years. Serving children and youth from birth to 22, The Home positively impacts over 14,000 lives each year through a network of services including behavioral health, therapeutic residential and special education, adoption and foster care. In addition, several innovative programs provide specialized assistance to youth transitioning to adulthood from state systems of care.

“Merging with Wediko will allow us to use our joint resources more effectively to expand and deepen the services we provide to the youth and families,” said Chris Egan, Chair of the Board of Directors for The Home for Little Wanderers. “Together, we can help our families thrive. I look forward to this next chapter in our history.”

Wediko will join The Home for Little Wanderers programs while maintaining its well-respected brand. Established in 1934, Wediko Children's Services works with children and families who have faced repeated obstacles in their lives due to a broad spectrum of social, emotional, behavioral, and learning challenges. Wediko has a strong reputation for partnering with schools and other agencies to strengthen the systems of care which often struggle to meet the needs of the most vulnerable.

The merger intends to preserve and expand access to all current Wediko programs including the Wediko School, Camp Wediko, and the Boston and New York programs. Wediko's programs greatly complement and align with The Home's work and will allow the two combined organizations to expand programs and services to better meet the needs of children and families.

“We are happy to be joining The Home for Little Wanderers family,” said Jeff Keffer, Chair of the Board of Directors for Wediko Children’s Services. “Wediko and The Home share a common mission. Working as one, we will have more impact in our communities supporting and promoting mental health for kids.”

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About The Home for Little Wanderers

For more than 200 years, The Home for Little Wanderers has earned a reputation for doing whatever it takes to strengthen vulnerable families and keep children safe in their communities, even when they don’t have family support. Serving children and youth from birth to 22, The Home positively impacts over 14,000 lives across Boston and Eastern Massachusetts each year through a network of behavioral health services, therapeutic residential treatment centers, special education, adoption and foster care. We never give up on children. And we don’t let children give up on themselves. For more information, visit www.thehome.org or follow The Home on Twitter @thehomeorg.

About Wediko Children’s Services

Wediko Children’s Services is a non-profit organization established in 1934. It is committed to restoring hope to children and their families when facing life’s challenges. Wediko partners with schools and families to promote the mental health and success of children and adolescents who face multiple barriers to learning. Wediko’s continuum of mental health and educational programs help children build skills, develop mastery, and make positive connections for happier and healthier lives. For more information about Wediko, visit www.wediko.org.