FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 6, 2015

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Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin honors public policy leaders for their work to improve child health and well-being

Two Wisconsin State officials – Senator Vukmir and Representative Johnson – recognized at 20th annual Bids for Kids dinner

MILWAUKEE – Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin honored the recipients of the third annual Children’s Champion Policy Award – Senator Leah Vukmir (R-Milwaukee) and Representative LaTonya Johnson (D-Milwaukee) – for their commitment to improving health care access and the overall health and well-being of Wisconsin children at the 20th annual Bids for Kids dinner and auction at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, Thursday, Nov. 5.

The Children’s Champion Policy Award honors public policy leaders in Wisconsin who strive to make a positive impact in the lives of Wisconsin children and families by working to move health and child well-being policy forward.

“This award recognizes Sen. Vukmir and Rep. Johnson for their outstanding advocacy efforts on behalf of Wisconsin’s children,” said Michelle Mettner, vice president of government relations and advocacy at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin. “Through their work to champion polices that improve coverage and access to health care, Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin is better equipped to achieve our vision that Wisconsin children are the healthiest in the nation.”

Sen. Vukmir was honored for her leadership as Senate Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, where she has led the charge on numerous policies to improve coverage and access to health care for children, including the Medicaid/Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) funding initiative and developing language that enabled DSH to pursue federal dollars for Wisconsin’s Poison Control Center, run by Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin.

“Ensuring that children in our state have the resources to be healthy and safe is critical to our future, and I am happy to partner with Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin to better address the health needs of Wisconsin kids,” said Sen. Vukmir.

Rep. Johnson was honored for her leadership on the Committee of Children and Families on issues such as injury prevention, child safety and reducing the growing problem of human trafficking, and for her commitment to serving on the Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council.

“Issues like injury prevention and reducing human trafficking threaten the well-being of our community,” said Rep. Johnson. “It’s our job to ensure we’re creating policies that protect the futures of Wisconsin children, and I have enjoyed working in partnership with Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin to do just that.”

Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin’s annual Bids for Kids dinner will benefit Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin Community Services, which is a leader in developing innovative, results-based programs to improve the well-being of families, from improving immunization rates to preventing child abuse to ensuring access to
dental, medical and mental health care, foster care and home visiting. Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin Community Services is the state’s largest private, non-profit provider of child welfare services, and has worked with families for more than 120 years to provide services that enhance the well-being of children, and provide protection and advocacy for children in need.

About Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin

Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin is the region’s only independent health care system dedicated solely to the health and well-being of children. The hospital, with locations in Milwaukee and Neenah, Wis., is recognized as one of the leading pediatric health care centers in the United States. It is ranked in 9 specialty areas in U.S. News & World Report’s 2015-16 Best Children’s Hospitals report. Children’s provides primary care, specialty care, urgent care, emergency care, community health services, foster and adoption services, child and family counseling, child advocacy services and family resource centers. In 2013, Children’s invested more than $105 million in the community to improve the health status of children through medical care, advocacy, education and pediatric medical research. Children’s achieves its mission in part through donations from individuals, corporations and foundations and is proud to be a member of Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals. For more information, visit the website at chw.org.

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