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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Kids Hope United offers Farm Acquisition Campaign** *Campaign preserves farmland and supports services to children in need*

**SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (April 17, 2007)**—Kids Hope United, a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting children and strengthening families, is introducing the Hudelson Farm Acquisition Campaign, a unique fund development initiative which allows the agency to rent acquired farmland to families, receiving a percentage of the crop profits to support children and families in care.

The campaign is named for Hudelson Baptist Children's Home, a founding organization of Kids Hope United. While the official campaign is new, KHU has been receiving gifts of land for nearly 40 years and currently owns 500 acres of land in East Central Illinois.

"This is a win-win initiative because it provides a legacy opportunity for community members while supporting important programs for children and families," said Patricia Griffith, executive director of the nonprofit organization.

Kids Hope United has erected a billboard sign, located one mile east of Stonington, Ill., on farmland donated to the agency in 1970 by the Chapman Family. The sign is designed to increase awareness of the worthwhile initiative throughout the community and surrounding areas and encourage others to get involved.

The agency will dedicate the sign on April 25, 2007, at 2 p.m. Representing Kids Hope United at the event will be Patricia Griffith, executive director, Bill Beck, board chair, and Jerri Michael, fund development director.

Kids Hope United's programs and services impact more than 2,500 children and families in central and southern Illinois and St. Louis, Missouri. For more information on Kids Hope United or the Hudelson Farm Acquisition Campaign, please contact Jerri Michael at 314.241.4345.

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**About Kids Hope United**

Kids Hope United is a private human service organization dedicated to protecting children and strengthening families. Kids Hope United offers a diverse array of prevention, intervention and community-based programs. Kids Hope United also specializes in child welfare system management, reform, consultation and training. With principal offices in Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri and Florida, Kids Hope United serves more than 15,000 children and their families across the country each year. For more information, visit [www.kidshopeunited.org](http://www.kidshopeunited.org).

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