The Children & Nature Network (C&NN) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization* dedicated to giving every child in every community a wide range of opportunities to experience nature directly, reconnecting our children with nature's joys and lessons, its profound physical, emotional, mental and spiritual bounty.
* IRS advanced rule is pending.

OUR CHILDREN: In his book, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder*, Richard Louv reported a growing concern of parents, educators and physicians: Children aren't playing outside much anymore — not even in the backyard or the neighborhood park. From Inner-city LA to rural farming communities in Kansas, children everywhere are affected. This change in our relationship with nature has profound implications for the health of our children, our communities, future generations – and for the health of the earth itself.

THE MOVEMENT: Not everyone accepts nature deficit as inevitable. Since the book's publication, Louv and others from health care professionals to industry leaders have come to believe in the great potential for an international Children & Nature movement focused on education, public health, urban design, architecture, conservation, and many other disciplines. Spontaneous and largely self-organizing, people and organizations from all sectors of our communities are launching regional campaigns to Leave No Child Inside.

THE GAP: Currently there is no single place to explore the challenges and solutions for reconnecting our children with nature; no interdisciplinary, cross-cultural, cross-professional, non-partisan venue for gathering and sharing peer-to-peer strategies and resources for fundamental change; no collection and redistribution point for the growing body of research and best practices to foster community and corporate commitment; no place to tell the personal and professional stories and anecdotes; no place to find the tools and resources for implementing and sustaining a regional, national, or international campaign.

THE SOLUTION: One-stop access to information, innovation, tools, and peers is essential if we are to harness and accelerate the momentum of the emerging Children & Nature movement. C&NN will use the C&NN peer-to-peer network, the C&NN internet portal, C&NN news service, and C&NN speaker's bureau to bridge the gap; providing access, resources, and opportunities to individuals, organizations, policy makers, and others dedicated to the health and well being of our children, our communities and the environment.

CONTACT: If you are interested in learning more about C&NN and the Children & Nature movement please visit us online at www.cnaturenet.org or contact us at:

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LEADERSHIP:

C&NN Chairman Richard Louv is the author of seven books about family, community and nature, including, most recently, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder* (Algonquin Books). He has served as a visiting scholar at Brandeis University, executive editor for the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, and as an adviser to the Ford Foundation's Leadership for a Changing World program.

President and Treasurer Cheryl Charles, Ph.D., is co-chair of the Education for Sustainable Development Working Group of the Commission on Education and Communication, World Conservation Union (IUCN-CEC). Cheryl is an innovator, educator, author and organizational executive. Cheryl served for close to 20 years as national director of the two most widely used environment education programs in North America, Project Learning Tree and Project WILD, and has received numerous awards for her leadership.

Vice President Martin LeBlanc, the National Youth Education Director for the Sierra Club, was himself a troubled youth who had his life turned around through an outdoor experience as a teenager. Martin has worked as an outdoor educator in Seattle, and served as outdoor-education advocate for Texas Parks and Wildlife. Martin believes that we "owe the next generation of American children a special place in nature so they can be empowered to solve the environmental challenges of the future."

Board Secretary Martha Farrell Erickson, Ph.D., is the Senior Fellow Director, Harris Programs, Center for Early Education & Development, and Co-Chair of the President's Initiative on Children, Youth & Families, University of Minnesota.

Director John Parr is a co-founder of CIVIC RESULTS, a non-profit organization that assists governments, businesses and non-profit institutions to collaboratively plan and implement initiatives that create measurable change in the physical, social, civic and human infrastructure of communities and regions.

Managing Director Amy Pertschuk was a co-founder and COO of eNature.com, the Web's premier nature-discovery resource. From 2000 – 2005, Amy managed eNature's operations and led program development and fundraising efforts for eNature's partnership program, reaching out to like-minded agencies and organizations with programs and initiatives to support a broad range of regional educational efforts.

Consultants to C&NN: Dean Stahl is an editor, writer and researcher, the author of Dolphins (Child's World Inc.) and co-editor of Abbreviations Dictionary (Taylor & Francis/CRC Press), a desktop reference. Chris Krueger is an internet producer, providing internet strategies and technology and was Co-founder, President, and Executive Director of eNature.com.