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Date: November 21, 2007

Release: Immediately

Presbyterian Children's Village to Commission Chaplain

(Rosemont, PA) On Saturday, December 8, 2007 the Presbyterian Children's Village will commission Rev. David E. Sanchez as the permanent chaplain to strengthen its spiritual ministry offered to Village resident children who come from broken homes due to violence, addictions, mental illness, and other social challenges.

Reverend Sanchez, originally from Chicago, became an ordained minister on August 26, 2007 in Chicago. He believes he received his calling from God to be a pastor while serving as a church custodian for several years at Carter Westminster United Church in Chicago. There church elders recommended that he take pastoral ministry courses to fulfill God's will for him. He completed his undergraduate studies at the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, receiving his B.A degree in Pastoral Studies. While attending Moody, he was the Associate Director at the Urban Youth Ministry in Chicago. Prior to this, he was the Youth Pastor for five years at Carter Westminster United Presbyterian Church in Skokie, Ill.

He left Chicago in 1999 to attend Westminster Theological Seminary in Glenside, PA where he graduated in 2003. Upon graduation from Westminster, he served for two years as an intern at Olney Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, was chaplain at Abington Memorial Hospital, and then became chaplain of the Village in 2005. His position as Village chaplain is unique because similar institutions don't have permanent chaplain positions.

Since his chaplaincy at the Village, he has adopted a holistic approach to ministry. It incorporates the spiritual, the physical, and mental with therapeutic care for resident children. He offers them God's hope, truth, and love so they can heal and get help through spiritual guidance. He offers Bible studies, grief counseling, chapel services, and support group meetings (called Value Groups) to meet their spiritual needs.

He, his wife Melissa, and their two boys, Noe (4 years old), and Emanuel (1 ½ years old), live in Delaware County.

Founded as an orphanage in 1877, Presbyterian Children's Village today is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the healing of the spirits of children, families and communities broken by violence, addiction, poverty, mental illness, racism and other serious societal

problems. The Village serves more than 10,000 children each year from communities in Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Lancaster, Luzerne, and York Counties.