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Governor Walker to Present Wisconsin Cares About Kids Award to Milwaukee's Kids Matter Inc.

(Madison) Governor Walker and State Public Defender Thompson will present the *Wisconsin Cares About Kids Award* to Milwaukee-based Kids Matter Inc. on February 18, 2014 at 11:30 am. The award, sponsored by Governor Walker and the State Public Defender's Office, formally recognizes extraordinary efforts in working with children. The ceremony will take place at Kids Matter located at 1850 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Drive, Suite 202, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Governor Walker is scheduled to present the award along with Wisconsin State Public Defender Kelli Thompson. State Public Defender Board Chair Daniel Berkos and Vice-Chair Regina Dunkin will also participate in the ceremony. Susan Conwell, Kids Matter's Executive Director, will accept the award on behalf of the organization.

Kids Matter was founded in 2001 to help children thrive in foster and kinship care. The organization provides a multitude of services, including working directly with foster parents to help them form a better relationship with their children; working in a supportive role with grandparents who have stepped up to care for their grandchildren; and facilitating the necessary connections to health care providers and child welfare professionals.

Public Defender Board Chair Dan Berkos noted, "I thank Governor Walker for teaming with the State Public Defender's Office to recognize the life-changing impact that Kids Matter makes in our communities on behalf of our children."

State Public Defender Kelli Thompson added, "Susan Conwell's Kids Matter is a community-based organization with a track record of doing wonderful work on behalf of our children. This award shines a well-deserved spotlight on Kids Matter, its talented staff, and its network of dedicated volunteers."

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