Bethesda, MD – July 9, 2014 – AFCEA Bethesda today announced the results of their 16th Annual A Night for the Children Gala fundraiser. The event, which was attended by more than 800 government and industry IT professionals, raised a total of $550,000 to be divided evenly between the two chosen charities, The Children’s Inn at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the DC House of Ruth. AFCEA Bethesda has grown to be one of the largest supporters of The Children’s Inn at NIH, donating a cumulative amount of almost $6 million and helping transform an ambitious effort into a financially sound organization that supports children undergoing treatment at NIH and their families.

While continuing to support The Children’s Inn at NIH, AFCEA Bethesda seeks to replicate that growth model by adding another worthy organization that helps children and their families. After thoroughly vetting dozens of locally based charities that support the health and welfare of children, the AFCEA Bethesda board unanimously selected the DC House of Ruth. The DC House of Ruth works with over 1,000 individuals a year, including 400 children from six weeks to 18 years old. More than 250 children are sheltered at the DC House of Ruth as they recover from homelessness and abuse. The goal is to help these children build safe, stable and productive lives, breaking the cycle of poverty and neglect so prevalent among needy and abused kids.

AFCEA Bethesda started the year with a donation of $25,000 to the DC House of Ruth and a pledge to raise at least $250,000 for the organization annually over the next three years. The previous donation is being used at Kidspace, the DC House of Ruth’s child and family development center, to put child-friendly computers in the classrooms. These tools will help the children bridge the “digital divide” and provide new modes of learning to them. The computers will also be very useful for the teachers, who will be able to use sophisticated assessment and tracking software that will help them monitor the progress of each child.

“AFCEA Bethesda’s A Night for the Children Gala has become the largest charity gala for The Children’s Inn at NIH, and now, the DC House of Ruth,” said Leslie Steele, AFCEA Bethesda’s Chapter President. “I’m proud to be a member of this federal IT community that continues to give back to less fortunate children.”

For more information, please visit www.anightforthechildren.org.
ABOUT AFCEA BETHESDA
AFCEA Bethesda Chapter, founded in 1998, is a non-profit organization that encourages greater government/industry partnerships and fosters networking among its peers. In 2004, the Chapter formed a Young AFCEAN group whose goal is to foster an environment where young professionals from the private and public sectors can meet, interact, and learn from each other. AFCEA Bethesda has earned the distinguished honor of being awarded “Model Chapter of the Year” by AFCEA International since 2000. For additional information please visit http://www.afceabethesda.org.

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