PRESS RELEASE FROM CHECKORPHAN

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CheckOrphan Launches iWish to Commemorate Rare Disease Day

BASEL, Switzerland - Today, CheckOrphan is launching one of its flagship features - **iWish** - in preparation for Rare Disease Day, February 28, which is an international effort to raise awareness for rare diseases and the needs of people affected by them.

To help commemorate this day, **iWish** is a way for people affected by, or working with, rare diseases to step forward and tell their stories through words and images. Currently, CheckOrphan is accepting **iWish** submissions in English, Spanish, French, German, and Italian.

Participants are asked to provide a text of up to 1,000 words describing a change or development they would like to see in the world of rare diseases – their **iWish**. They are also encouraged to discuss their experience with a rare disease or diseases, if applicable, and to provide and describe an image (a photograph or other creative image) that in some way complements or illustrates their text. Examples of some iWish contributions can be viewed at:

http://www.checkorphan.org/content/iWish

“People affected by a rare disease have the chance to show the world in an artistic or realistic way through a picture and words what it is like to have a rare disease,” explains Ian Sowers, Head of Marketing and PR for CheckOrphan. “But, we also encourage industry professionals, physicians, researchers and others to explain want they encounter as well. This way the world will have a complete view of the problem, accompanied with ways to overcome the hurdles that rare, orphan and neglected diseases face.”

CheckOrphan’s goal is to allow people around the world to provide creative solutions, through their iWish. At the same time CheckOrphan offers people the opportunity to make an iWish come true. People who want to support an iWish can contact CheckOrphan and then CheckOrphan will contact the individual who submitted the iWish on behalf of the interested supporter.

“Rare, orphan and neglected disease need solutions. They are a huge drain on families and society in general,” says Robert Derham, President of CheckOrphan. “So as the saying goes ‘two heads are better than one’ - we believe that 7 billion heads will be even better. Collectively we will be able to think outside of the box and start to bring solutions to the hundreds of millions of people that are affected with rare, orphan and neglected diseases.”

Since its inception two years ago, CheckOrphan.org has become the leading online source of news about rare, orphan, and neglected diseases.

Recently re-launched with a new look and increased functionality, CheckOrphan is dedicated to being a complete web platform for rare diseases that unites and empowers researchers, physicians, professionals and, most importantly, those affected by rare diseases so that they can initiate change.

CheckOrphan's features include: a database of over 8,000 news articles about rare diseases, events, treatments, research publications, physician-researcher-hospital-organization-industry databases, videos, daily newsletters and more.

About CheckOrphan
CheckOrphan is the leading source of news about rare, orphan and neglected diseases. Its news database holds the largest concentration of articles about rare diseases, with over 8,000 entries. CheckOrphan's users benefit from several large databases that also include: events, treatments, research publications, physician-researcher-hospital-organization-industry databases, videos, daily newsletters and more. It is also home to **iWish** – every wish means hope for a better tomorrow.

CheckOrphan is a non-profit organization that encourages its visitors to submit content and information to the platform. CheckOrphan is always interested in meeting new partners and supporters. CheckOrphan would like to thank the Gebert Rüf Stiftung for its support. For more information about this foundation, please visit http://www.grstiftung.ch.

Contact:

CheckOrphan
Ian Sowers
Head of Marketing and PR
Tel: +41 61 267 0447
Mob: +41 79 719 5539
E-mail: ian.sowers@checkorphan.org
Web: http://www.checkorphan.org
Free Daily Newsletter: http://www.checkorphan.org

Robert Derham
President
Tel: +41 61 267 0447
Mob: +41 78 662 5231
Web: http://www.checkorphan.org
Free Daily Newsletter: http://www.checkorphan.org