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Children’s Home Society, Family Resource Center Merge

Uniting will provide more resources, better outcomes for children and families they serve.

ST. LOUIS (Oct. 18, 2016) – Two well established non-profit child welfare organizations in the St. Louis region, Children’s Home Society of Missouri (CHS) and Family Resource Center (FRC), are merging to better provide vulnerable children and families with a full spectrum of services and support.

Together, these two organizations will offer comprehensive programs to prevent and treat abuse and neglect. The new agency’s highly skilled staff, evidence-based practices, and strong partnerships with leading educational institutions and researchers will reinforce and strengthen the outcomes for children and families served.

Founded to provide child welfare and adoption services in 1891, CHS today meets the needs of children and families who have faced severe emotional and physical trauma. CHS offers an array of programs including mental health, education and training, family support, and residential and respite care. CHS has helped tens of thousands of children and their families throughout its rich history.

Since 1974, FRC has been a leader in reducing child abuse and neglect and strengthening families through family-centered therapeutic, educational, and support services. FRC has helped over 150,000 at-risk children and family members in the St. Louis region.

The combined entity will provide more comprehensive services and support to existing clients and additional children and families in need, in an expanded service area including Jefferson, St. Charles, and St. Louis counties, as well as St. Louis City. Because these two organizations have offered complementary, unduplicated programs, there are no plans to reduce facility operations or staff. In fact, the capacity to provide life-saving services will grow. For instance, the combination of Children’s Home Society’s use of the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics (NMT) that was developed by Dr. Bruce Perry, a leading expert in childhood trauma, with Family Resource Center’s Therapeutic Preschool, helps staff systematically identify interventions specific to each individual traumatized child.

CHS Executive Director Karen Nolte, FRC Chief Executive Officer Greg Echele, and their highly engaged Boards of Directors believe that the merger represents a strategic opportunity to advance the missions of both organizations in a faster, more effective way than they could do separately.

“The challenges and complexities of running a non-profit organization have never been greater. From government contracts to employment regulations to information technology systems, along with the consistent application of evidenced-based practices that improve client outcomes, more and higher-level expertise is necessary for non-profits to thrive,” said Nolte. “Together, we are stronger in terms of organizational capacity and resources.”





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Earlier this year, FRC’s Echele announced that he would be retiring at the end of 2016 after 28 years of leading the organization. Nolte will assume the role of Executive Director of the new organization.

Reiterating that the merger is good news for families throughout the region, Echele said, “Forty-two years ago, my colleagues and I recognized an unmet need to treat the psychological scars of child abuse and neglect, and Family Resource Center was born. After spending the majority of my professional career advocating for kids who have suffered trauma from family violence, I am delighted that this merger with Children’s Home Society will extend our commitment to break the cycle of abuse.”

More information about Children’s Home Society and Family Resource Center can be found at www.chsmo.org and www.frcmo.org.

