



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Providing Unique Services to Keep Families Together**

**July 14, 2008** - TFI Family Services teams with Kansas Social Rehabilitation and Services (SRS) in providing unique services to help families stay together. The FAMLE (Family Assistance, Mentoring and Living Education) Project is a Community Service Grant in which child welfare agencies apply for with SRS. The grant is awarded based on the agency's ability to provide those services within the SRS Region the grant covers.

The FAMLE grant allows SRS, Law Enforcement and Juvenile Intake to ensure that a child is protected and safe during a time of family crisis. TFI's FAMLE staff assists families in identifying the community resources and how they can best be utilized to resolve the crises and avoid out-of-home placement for the children.

TFI first applied for the FAMLE grant in 2005 and was awarded the grant and provided services for Neosho, Allen, Woodson and Wilson Counties. Since 2005, SRS has approached TFI to both renew and expand those services provided by the grant. In the past three years, Montgomery and Cherokee Counties have been added. In July, 2008, the FAMLE grant will expand into Labette County. This is a real advantage to families in these areas especially since all the services provided by FAMLE are free of charge to the families in need of them. As an additional benefit, parenting classes are also made available free of charge through this grant.

When Jill Carraher, MSW, Behavioral Health Manager and Carla Heibsch, Behavioral Health Supervisor for TFI, approached SRS to discuss the expansion of FAMLE services in Southeast Kansas, she stated that, "It was nice to hear about the positive impact we had made with families

in the communities that we have served. SRS shared encouraging feedback with us and explained that they were impressed with the timeliness in which we addressed concerns.”

When TFI was awarded the renewal of the grant, Jill shared, “We were thrilled that they wanted to continue providing these services and to expand the service area.”

Another SRS Community Service Grant, HomeBase, similar to the FAMLE Project, has also been renewed for the 2008-2009 term to TFI. This is a competitive annual grant that TFI has been awarded for the past seven years in a row. TFI implements community service programs to prevent children from out of home placement for Central West Kansas counties (Lyon, Coffey, Marion, Greenwood, Morris, Chase, Butler and Cowley).

The HomeBase Project provides family services that are essentially, pre-custody, pre-family preservation. Severe problems and dysfunctions within a family can sometimes lead to the children being removed from their home and placed in the care of relatives or resource foster parents. The HomeBase Project strives to keep families and children together by finding solutions to the problems at hand before this happens. TFI’s Behavioral Health Department is able to offer more personalized care for children and families in which the therapist comes to the family and works with them in their home, or within their environment and community.

In partnership with the parents and child, the HomeBase staff will complete a family assessment to set goals to address identified problems. Some of these goals may include increasing communication between family members, setting and following house rules, providing adequate supervision for children, or maintaining a healthy home environment. The family is given information and assisted in developing skills necessary to meet these goals. As needed, families will be linked to other community resources that can provide assistance. Several funding sources can be utilized for payment, including medical cards, private insurances and additional grants from Community Services/SRS.

Both the FAMLE and HomeBase staff believes that whenever possible, parents are the best resources to raise healthy, productive children and there are times that parents need assistance in order to do this. For more information or a referral, call toll free 877-921-4114, email [IMD@the-farm.org](mailto:IMD@the-farm.org).

**ABOUT TFI Family Services** – TFI Family Services is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for youth and families through Behavioral Health and Child Welfare Services. Their goal is always to build brighter tomorrows for families and children together. - **END** -