



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**DATE: May 28, 2009**

**CONTACT: Lisa Bozarth, Public Affairs Supervisor**  
**TFI Family Services, Inc.**  
**(913) 894-2985 (office)**  
**lisab@the-farm.org**

## **Foster Families Make a Difference**

Wilson County, Kansas, May 2009 – Matt graduated this May from the University of Kansas with his Bachelors of Arts in Psychology. This fall, he plans to pursue a law degree at Washburn Law School. Matt grew up in foster care. While he did not choose to be in that situation, the love and care of foster parents made the difference in his life.

Matt's involvement with the Kansas Youth Advisory Council (KYAC) and his local Regional Youth Advisory Council (RYAC) through TFI Family Services, Inc., has given him the opportunity to grow as a leader amongst his peers. Matt has taken his experiences in foster care and become an advocate who speaks both state and nation wide as a speaker at conferences and workshops. He shares his story and gives professionals insight into seeing the child welfare system through a youth's eyes. Recently, Matt was recognized and selected as one of the Top 100 Outstanding Young Leaders by FosterClub.

Matt's success is truly about all of us who care for youth who have had to be placed out of home. His story is only one in thousands of children placed in foster care and given a chance to grow and thrive.

The need for foster care and forever-adoptive families never lessens. It is this need that TFI Family Services hopes to communicate with the communities they serve. If a child cannot stay with their biological family and must be placed out of home, then TFI works hard to place children with kinship relationships, with members in the community who open their hearts and homes to children in need of care, or with forever-adoptive families. Simply put families matter...no matter what shape or size. May is Foster Care Appreciation Month;

however, every day that a foster care parent makes a difference in a life of a child is cause for recognition and appreciation.

**ABOUT TFI Family Services, Inc.** – TFI Family Services, Inc. is a statewide nonprofit organization that provides experience, compassion, quality child welfare, behavioral healthcare and community-based services to children and families in Kansas. To learn more about becoming a foster care parent, please visit [www.the-farm.org](http://www.the-farm.org). – **END** -