

## PRESS RELEASE



### **TFI Family Services Achieves the Highest Standards of Professional Practice**

**Overland Park, KS, March 28, 2008** - The Council on Accreditation (COA) of Services for Families and Children awarded TFI Family Services, reaccreditation based on TFI's high standards set for administrative and fiscal management practices and service delivery. Reaccreditation was given to TFI Family Services based on the evidentiary support, field expertise and the outcomes of the services of which COA's Contextual Accreditation assesses.

TFI Family Services achieved this national reaccreditation by continuing to place high value in providing quality programs for the families and children they serve. TFI (formerly known as The Farm, Inc.) began as a summer camp for youth in 1965 and has now evolved into a full array of services that aim at building brighter tomorrows for families and children through Behavioral Health and Child Welfare Services. Our organization currently holds two state contracts that serve 45 counties – the Reintegration and Foster Care Contract for Region One and the Family Preservation Contract for the state's Region Three – with twenty-six offices statewide in Kansas. Overland Park, KS is just one of those offices.

The greatest goal at TFI Family Services is to ensure that children have permanency and safety in their young lives. We do this by working with their families. If the natural family is not a resource for that child, TFI achieves permanency by working to place the children in loving homes through relatives, kinship or adoptive families. When family foster care homes are needed, we currently have 600 statewide sponsored homes in which to place a child. TFI constantly endeavors to recruit more family foster care homes and to provide progressive services that support families for the best interest of the child.

TFI works to diversify their services to meet the ever present and the ever changing need of support for families and children in Kansas. We have numerous services that we provide through Behavioral Health including substance abuse treatment programs, counseling and parenting education. Our Visit and Exchange Center in Douglas County provides a safe, protective haven for children when visitations between different parents need to occur. This past year, TFI Family Services opened its first child care center in Junction City as well as purchasing Sunshine Acres Montessori Pre-School and Child Care Center in Lawrence that we now manage. We also opened TRAIL, an independent living program in Topeka and more recently, another in Wichita. TRAIL gives teens that are in state custody an opportunity to live independently in an apartment building with onsite supervision. Through this program teens learn the basic life skills they need to make the transition to adulthood a success. As we continue to look at ways to diversify, and to the future, TFI will persevere in exploring and growing in areas that family and children need us most.

“With this reaccreditation, TFI continues to move forward as one of the state's premiere not for profit organizations serving Kansas' families and children,” explains Peggy S. Martin, CEO of TFI Family Services. “The Board Members and our staff have proven their steadfast dedication to our mission, always putting children and families first.”

Peggy S. Martin also explained that, “By involving our entire organization – the board, staff, clients and community partners – in the accreditation process, we are able to have an outside source to measure our organization's effectiveness. That is important to us.”

TFI's guiding principles reflect the responsibility we accept to care for others and to be faithful stewards of public funds; as well as applying resources (money, people, knowledge, time) efficiently to achieve the desired results.

**ABOUT COA** - Founded in 1977, the Council on Accreditation (COA) partners with human service organizations worldwide to build credibility, integrity and achievement. To find out more information about COA and its accreditation process, go to [www.coanet.org](http://www.coanet.org) or email [coainfo@coanet.org](mailto:coainfo@coanet.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. For additional information about TFI, contact Marketing at 1-877-994-2985 or visit our website, [www.the-farm.org](http://www.the-farm.org).