



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**CONTACT: Lisa Bozarth
Public Affairs Supervisor
TFI Family Services, Inc.
(877) 994-2985 (office)
lisab@the-farm.org**

TFI Family Services, Inc. Achieves Hague Accreditation, Paving the Way for its International Adoption Program

Statewide, Kansas, February 16, 2010 – TFI Family Services, Inc. has received notification that it has achieved Hague Accreditation through the Council on Accreditation (COA) as authorized by the U.S. Department of State, according to an announcement made to the organization’s Chief Executive Officer, Peggy S. Martin. TFI Family Services, Inc. provides child welfare, behavioral healthcare, and community-based services in service locations throughout the state of Kansas.

Hague Accreditation attests that TFI Family Services, Inc. is in substantial compliance with the Hague Convention Accreditation Standards. The Hague Convention is an international treaty created to ensure that intercountry adoptions are in the best interests of children and to prevent abduction, exploitation, sale, or trafficking of children. In 1994 the United States signed this treaty and agreed to develop regulations and a monitoring process for adoption serviced providers in the U.S. that worked with agencies in countries that signed onto the Convention.

Congress passed The Intercountry Adoption Act (IAA) in October 2000, which serves as the implementing legislation for the United States. The IAA names the U.S. Department of State (State Department) as the Central Authority for the United States and the federal agency responsible for implementing the Convention. The IAA requires agencies and persons providing adoption services in cases involving Convention countries to be accredited or

approved. In July, 2006 the U.S. Department of State named COA as the only national accreditor for adoption service providers under the Hague Convention.

Founded in 1977, COA is an independent, not-for-profit accreditor of the full of the continuum of community-based behavioral health care and social service organizations. COA's mission is to partner with human service organizations worldwide to improve service delivery outcomes by developing, applying, and promoting accreditation standards. COA envisions excellence in the delivery of human services globally, resulting in the well-being of individuals, families and communities.

COA is endorsed by leading consumer and professional groups and by many regulatory bodies and managed care organizations. COA is sponsored by the Alliance for Children and Families, Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies, Catholic Charities USA, Child Welfare League of America, Children's Home Society of America, Employee Assistance Society of North America, Foster Family-based Treatment Association, Joint Council on International Children's Services, Lutheran Services in America, National Council For Adoption, National Foundation for Credit Counseling, National Network for Youth, National Organization of State Associations for Children, Prevent Child Abuse America and Volunteers of America.

COA's supporting endorsers include the following organizations: American Association of Children's Residential Centers, American Network of Community Options and Resources, Child Welfare League of Canada, EAGLE Program of the United Methodist Association, Mental Health Corporations of America, Inc., National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, National Association of Family-Based Services, National Association of Psychiatric Treatment Centers for Children, National Association of Social Workers, National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors, Inc., National Association of Therapeutic Wilderness Camps and National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare.

ABOUT TFI Family Services, Inc. –TFI Family Services, Inc. a private, nonprofit organization that is dedicated to doing what makes sense for children and families through a diverse range

of behavioral healthcare and child welfare services. TFI Family Services, Inc. seeks to adhere to the highest standards of ethics and best practices in order to best serve youth and families; thus, having achieved the Hague Accreditation, TFI Family Services, Inc. is pleased to offer international adoption services. We are currently accepting applications, and we will begin processing after April 1, 2010. TFI's International Adoption Department will be working with multiple countries in different parts of the world as well as other adoption agencies in the U.S. to provide quality services to families. If you are interested in International Adoption, please call 888-865-8964 or email internationaladoptions@the-farm.org. Visit TFI's website at www.the-farm.org to learn more.

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