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Multidisciplinary Team Response to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

Omaha, Neb. – Project Harmony continues to lead the way for all Child Advocacy Centers (CAC) with strong multidisciplinary teams (MDT). On Monday, November 16, Project Harmony is hosting a four day training for MDTs across the region focused on prevention and intervention of child victims of commercial sexual exploitation funded through the National Criminal Justice Training Center (NCJTC) of Fox Valley Technical College (FTC). Furthermore, the training will utilize subject matter experts to describe preferred practices, model programs and resources to help guide teams. This training aims to:

- Define Human Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children;
- Understand the commercial sex industry and indicators of prostitution;
- Recognize youth at-risk of victimization;
- Develop a victim-centered approach;
- Prepare successful CSEC response model programs; and
- Create a plan that encompasses strengths, challenges and a direction for MDT response to CSEC.

“This four day training, in partnership with the Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers and the Midwest Regional Children’s Advocacy Center, is not only critical for the child victims of commercial sexual exploitation, but it is also necessary to increase continuity amongst our partners and to strengthen our response both at a local and state level,” says Project Harmony Executive Director Gene Klein. “It is also very exciting to have the opportunity to work alongside other MDTs from across the region including Iowa, Kansas, North Dakota and Wisconsin to jointly strengthen our approach as well.”

Project Harmony is one of the largest Child Advocacy Centers in the nation. This is not due to an overwhelming volume of child abuse, but due to the level of collaboration that comes together to address the issue – collectively.

ABOUT PROJECT HARMONY
Project Harmony is a nonprofit, community-based organization that has served more than 25,000 children during the past 19 years by providing a child friendly environment in which specially-trained professionals work together to assess, investigate, and resolve child abuse cases. In one centralized location, Project Harmony co-houses with Omaha Police Department Child Victim/Sexual Assault Unit, Nebraska Health & Human Services/Child Protection Service Initial Assessment and Child Abuse Hotline, Lutheran Family Services and Child Saving Institute. Project Harmony exists to protect and
support children, collaborate with professionals and engage the community to end child abuse and neglect.

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