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PROJECT HARMONY EARNS RE-ACCREDITATION FROM NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

National Children's Alliance recognizes Project Harmony for its ongoing delivery of high quality and effective services to child abuse victims through accreditation

Omaha, Neb. (November, 2016) – **Project Harmony** has been awarded re-accreditation by National Children's Alliance following an extensive application and site review process. As the accrediting agency for Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC) across the country, National Children's Alliance awards various levels of accreditation and membership to centers responding to allegations of child abuse in ways that are effective and efficient, and put the needs of child victims of abuse first. Accreditation is the highest level of membership with National Children's Alliance and denotes excellence in service provision.

Accredited CACs must undergo a re-accreditation process every five years to ensure that best practices are continually being applied. With accreditation standards being updated in 2010, re-accreditation this year reflects *Project Harmony's* commitment to providing evidence-based methods practice.

Project Harmony is a child advocacy center whose mission is to *protect and support children* – providing services to Douglas and Sarpy Counties as well as 16 counties in Southwest Iowa. Within the last month, Project Harmony started delivering a coordinated response to children suspected of abuse/neglect or witness to a violent event using *The Bridge* in Fremont, Neb., as an alternate location – providing forensic interviewing, advocacy and medical support. After completing a full year of operation in 1996, Project Harmony served roughly 156 children. Now, 20 years later, Project Harmony has helped over 28,000 children tell their story and provide them with the support and resources they need to live a happier and healthier life.

As an Accredited Member of National Children's Alliance, Project Harmony is dedicated to providing comprehensive, coordinated and compassionate services to victims of child abuse. National Children's Alliance awards Accredited Membership based on a CAC's compliance with 10 national standards of accreditation to ensure effective, efficient and consistent delivery of services to child abuse victims. Accredited Members must utilize a functioning and effective Multidisciplinary Team approach to work collaboratively in child abuse investigation, prosecution, and treatment. National Children's Alliance also considers standards regarding a

center's cultural competency and diversity, forensic interviews, victim support and advocacy, medical evaluation, therapeutic intervention, and child focused setting.

“As an organization/team of individuals dedicated to responding to child abuse, we recognize the importance of maintaining Accredited status from National Children’s Alliance. Re-accreditation not only validates our organization’s dedication to proven effective approaches of child abuse intervention and prevention, but also contributes to consistency across the child advocacy center movement as a whole,” said Gene Klein, Executive Director of Project Harmony.

“Project Harmony is to be commended for its continued commitment to effectively serve victims of child abuse. As the national association and accrediting body for Children’s Advocacy Centers across the country, our goal is to ensure that every victim of child abuse has access to high quality services that result from professional collaboration. By requiring Accredited Centers to undergo re-Accreditation every five years, we ensure that evidence-based practices are being implemented and the highest quality of service is being provided,” remarked Teresa Huizar, Executive Director of National Children’s Alliance.

For more information about **Project Harmony**, visit ProjectHarmony.com.

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Project Harmony is a nonprofit, community-based organization in Omaha, Nebraska, that has served more than 28,000 children during the past 20 years by providing a child friendly environment in which specially-trained professionals work together to assess, investigate, and resolve child abuse cases. In a nationally unique model, Project Harmony has one centralized location that 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.

National Children’s Alliance is the national association and accrediting body for the over 750 children’s advocacy centers serving each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Dedicated to helping local communities respond to allegations of child abuse in ways that are effective and efficient, and put the needs of child victims of abuse first, National Children’s Alliance provides support and advocacy to its accredited membership, as well as numerous developing centers, multidisciplinary teams and child abuse professionals around the country, and the world. As the national authority on multidisciplinary approaches to supporting child victims of abuse, the purpose of National Children’s Alliance is to empower local communities to provide comprehensive, coordinated and compassionate services to victims of child abuse. Founded in 1998, National Children’s Alliance provides accreditation opportunities, financial assistance, training, technical assistance, research and education to communities, child abuse professionals and children’s advocacy centers throughout the United States in support of child abuse intervention, advocacy and prevention. www.nationalchildrensalliance.org