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Family Services' Child Advocacy Center Earns Recreditation From National Children's Alliance

WINSTON-SALEM, NC (July 5, 2022)—Family Services Child Advocacy Center has been awarded reaccreditation by National Children's Alliance following an extensive application and site review process. As the accrediting agency for Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) across the country, the National Children's Alliance awards various levels of accreditation and membership to centers responding to allegations of child abuse in effective and efficient ways to the needs of child victims of abuse first. Accreditation is the highest membership level with the National Children's Alliance and denotes excellence in service provision. Accredited CACs must undergo a reaccreditation process every five years to ensure that best practices are continually being applied.

Jointly established in 2000 by several community departments and agencies, the Family Services Child Advocacy Center coordinates a multidisciplinary approach to responding to allegations of child abuse in Forsyth County. Currently, the multidisciplinary team consists of Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, Family Services, Forsyth County Child Protective Services, Forsyth County District Attorney's Office, Forsyth County Sheriff's Office, Kernersville Police Department, Parenting Path, and the Winston-Salem Police Department. The Center is in a confidential location where children can be interviewed once, reducing the trauma of sharing their stories over and over in a comfortable, child-friendly, and age-appropriate environment. It is staffed by specially trained professionals skilled in child abuse prevention and treatment.

In 2021, the CAC served 201 children, 156 females and 45 males, ranging from 0-18 years and older. 90-95% of cases are child sexual abuse cases; however, children exposed to physical abuse or who may have witnessed a violent crime are also seen. The center also provides services for developmentally delayed adults who have been exposed to abuse.

"I commend the entire Child Advocacy Center team for continuing to provide the highest quality care, commitment, and service to our child trauma clients and their non-offending caregivers," shares Traci Ross, President and CEO of Family Services.

Fulton McSwain, who has been the Child Advocacy Center Director for eight years, says, "The accreditation process is a rigorous one, and rightfully so. It is also an invaluable resource that ensures the Children's Advocacy Center and the Multidisciplinary Team provide the highest quality of services to children and family members impacted by abuse. This reaccreditation confirms that our team follows best practices to help children pursue safety, healing, and justice."

About The National Children's Alliance

National Children's Alliance is the national association and accrediting body for children's advocacy centers around the country, dedicated to helping local communities respond to allegations of child abuse in effective and efficient ways—putting the needs of child victims first. NCA provides accreditation, training, support, technical assistance, and leadership on a national level to the over 700 local children's and child advocacy centers (CAC) and communities responding to child abuse and neglect reports across the country. Its mission is to promote and support communities in providing a coordinated investigation and comprehensive response to victims of child abuse. NCA strives to give every child access to the services of an accredited Children's Advocacy Center.

About Family Services

Family Services is a nonprofit organization serving Forsyth County, North Carolina, by providing professional services and participating in partnerships that foster the development of children, advance the safety, security, and success of families and individuals, and help build a sustainable community. For more information, please go to familyservicesforsyth.org.

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