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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hope Center for Children Receives National Accreditation

Hope Center for Children was awarded national accreditation through the Council on Accreditation (COA) on March 18, 2016. COA partners with human service organizations world-wide to establish best practices. This award is the result of more than two years of preparation and performance by Hope Center for Children staff and volunteers to achieve such esteemed accreditation. Organizations pursue accreditation to demonstrate the implementation of best practice standards in the field of human services. COA evaluated all aspects of Hope Center for Children's programs, services, management, and administration.

"COA accreditation confirms that families and children served by Hope Center for Children are receiving top-quality care which ensures the highest level of outcomes to end the cycle of child abuse and neglect," stated Chief Executive Officer, Chamlee Loscuito. "More than 2,100 children were served by Hope Center for Children in 2015 and this accreditation confirms to our community that we will continue to operate with excellence."

COA accreditation is an objective, independent, and reliable validation of an agency's performance. The COA accreditation process involves a detailed review and analysis of an organization's administration, management, and service delivery functions against international standards of best practice. The standards driving accreditation ensure that services are well-coordinated, culturally competent, evidence-based, outcomes-oriented, and provided by a skilled and supported workforce. COA accreditation demonstrates accountability in the management of resources, sets standardized best practice thresholds for service and administration, and increases organizational capacity and accountability by creating a framework for ongoing quality improvement.

To achieve COA accreditation, Hope Center for Children first provided written evidence of compliance with the COA standards. Thereafter, a group of specially trained volunteer Peer Reviewers confirmed adherence to these standards during a series of on-site interviews with trustees, staff and clients.



About Hope Center for Children:

Hope Center for Children, formerly the Children Shelter of the Upstate and Ellen Hines Smith Girls' Home, exists to build stable, healthy families and provide children a safe place from abuse and neglect. We have five primary programs that work toward this goal; two programs serve families with increased risk of abuse or neglect, two provide around-the-clock care for children who are victims of abuse or neglect and one program works with youth at risk of homelessness. **In the past 12 months we have served 831 families and 2,183 children in our community.** For more information on Hope Center for Children, visit www.hopecfc.org or call 864-583-7688.

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If you'd like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview, please call Chamlee Loscuito, Chief Executive Officer, at 864-583-7688 ext. 133 or email Chamlee@hopecfc.org.