

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Families United Network, Inc.

Families United Network, Inc. Achieves National Reaccreditation

Muncy, PA, September 21, 2015: **Families United Network, Inc.** has achieved national reaccreditation through the New York-based Council on Accreditation (COA). Organizations pursue accreditation to demonstrate the implementation of best practice standards in the field of human services. COA evaluated all aspects of **Families United Network's** programs, services, management, and administration.

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, **Families United Network, Inc.** 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.

Based on their findings, COA's volunteer-based Accreditation Commission voted that **Families United Network, Inc.** had successfully met the criteria for accreditation. **Families United Network, Inc.** was originally accredited in 2007 and have maintained diligence in the quality and outcomes of programming.

An endorsement of COA and the value of its accreditation process is reflected in it being named by the US State Department as the sole national independent accrediting body under the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption to accredit inter-country adoption service providers. In addition, COA is the only national accreditor designated by the U.S. Department of Defense to develop accreditation standards and processes for human service programs provided to military personnel and their families.

Founded in 1977, COA is an independent, not-for-profit accreditor of the full continuum of community-based behavioral health care and social service organizations in the United States and Canada. Over 2,000 organizations — voluntary, public, and proprietary; local and statewide; large and small — have either successfully achieved COA accreditation or are currently engaged in the process. Presently, COA has a total of 47 service standards that are applicable to over 125 different types of programs.

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For more information about Families United Network, Inc. visit www.families4kids.org. To learn more about COA, please visit www.COAnet.org.

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About Our Agency—Families United Network, Inc. is a leader in child welfare services with eight offices that serve 50 counties throughout Pennsylvania. The agency provides quality foster care as well as domestic and international adoption services. The agency also operates Community Residential Care/Life Readiness programs to prepare adolescent boys and girls as they age-out of the child welfare system. A non-profit, social service agency, founded in 1995, Families United Network is among a select group of social service organizations in the nation that is accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA). COA is an international accreditation that requires agencies to demonstrate rigorous standards in quality of services and management.

Visit our website, www.families4kids.org to learn more about how you can help foster or adopt children in Pennsylvania.

Report suspected child abuse to ChildLine at 800-932-0313 (TDD: 866-872-1677). ChildLine accepts calls from the public and professionals 24 hours per day, seven days a week. They provide information, counseling, and referral services for families and children to ensure the safety and well-being of the children of Pennsylvania.



www.families4kids.org