

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Word
of Righteousness
Family Life Center

WORFLC Named Lead Agency for Garfield Heights Family to Family System of Care

Cuyahoga County Department of Children & Family Services Selects WORFLC

GARFIELD HEIGHTS (December 10, 2009) – Word of Righteousness Family Life Center, Inc., a faith-based non-profit organization dedicated to providing quality support services to enrich the lives of families throughout Northeast Ohio, was selected by the Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services to be the lead agency in Garfield Heights for the 2010 year in the provision of family-centered, neighborhood-based work known as Family to Family System of Care.

Word of Righteousness Family Life Center (WORFLC) and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), together with families, will identify and build on family strengths to provide opportunities to participate in all decisions affecting them so that children at risk of abuse or neglect are protected and nurtured within a family and with the support of the community. Moreover, by implementing the wrap-around process, the outcomes will be improved while empowering families and promoting self-sufficiency as well.

“Our agency has been warmly embraced by the City of Garfield Heights. Both city and school officials, local businesses, community organizations and residents as a whole have been very supportive of our efforts to serve the community. These relationships have been pivotal in increasing our capacity to meet the growing needs of children and families during these difficult times. As the lead agency of the Garfield Heights collaborative, which now also includes Maple Heights, Valley View, Walton Hills and Oakwood Village, WORFLC will build upon these relationships to develop a supportive network for families to include relatives, neighbors, faith-based and community-based organizations,” stated Dr. Alicia M. Lytle, President and Chief Executive Officer of WORFLC.

Pastor Charles J. Lytle, Chairman of the Board for WORFLC adds, “It is by God’s grace that our agency continues to receive opportunities to help families that have been weakened through poverty, illness or crisis. We therefore count it as an awesome privilege to be charged with the responsibility of spearheading this effort to stabilize and reunify families while reducing the number of children that are abused, neglected and displaced throughout our communities.”

WORFLC will host an Open House on December 19, 2009, from 10 am to 12 pm at Word of Righteousness Family Life Center (13455 Dressler Avenue, Garfield Heights, Ohio) and invites all community members and partners to come and meet the volunteers and staff and learn more about the growing number of programs and services available to the community at the Center.

Since arriving in Garfield Heights, WORFLC has provided substantive community services to the residents of Garfield Heights and the surrounding communities including part of Cleveland, Bedford, Maple Heights, Warrensville Heights and Independence. Their service highlights include:

- * assisting hundreds of families in need of utilities assistance
- * distributing more than 42,016 pounds of food and products
- * serving more than 1,200 families in need with enough food for three to five days
- * providing more than 32,000 meals through its client choice food pantry
- * distributing hundreds of coats and clothing items, as well as hundreds of toys, to families
- * conducting workshops on financial literacy, credit repair and home ownership
- * offering parenting training, life skills and group support to the community
- * connecting countless other families to valuable resources within the community

WORFLC has enjoyed serving in the Garfield Heights collaborative under the leadership of Garfield Heights City Schools and is grateful for the impressive foundation laid by their director, Melissa Thompson, MBA, and her staff, Olga Christou, Brian Kenderes, Carmella Moore and Jasmine Simmons. The agency looks forward to its partnership with the Department of Children and Family Services to address and improve the nine Family to Family outcomes which are:

- (1) reducing the number and rate of children placed away from their birth families;
- (2) among children coming into foster care, increasing the number and rate at which children are placed in their own neighborhoods or communities;
- (3) reducing the number of children served in institutional and group care and shifting resources from institutional and group care to kinship care, family foster care, and family-centered services;
- (4) decreasing lengths of stay of children in placement;
- (5) increasing the number and rate of children reunified with their birth families;
- (6) decreasing the number and rate of children re-entering placement;
- (7) reducing the number of placement moves children in care experience;
- (8) increasing the number and rate of brothers and sisters placed together; and
- (9) reducing any disparities associated with race/ethnicity, gender, or age in each of these outcomes.

WORFLC, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, can receive correspondence and donations by regular mail at WORFLC, P.O. Box 25584, Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125, or online at www.worflc.org/index.htm. The organization's volunteer and employment applications can be accessed from their website. Individuals and community partners can sign up to receive updates and additional information from the website's contact page, as well.

About Word of Righteousness Family Life Center, Inc.

WORFLC is a faith-based non-profit organization in Garfield Heights, Ohio. Their mission is to provide quality support services to enrich the lives of families throughout Northeast Ohio. The center currently offers assistance with food, clothing, housing, utilities, parenting skills, financial literacy and other forms of support. Plans to renovate the recently acquired facility and expand its programs and services are currently underway. Those seeking additional information about the organization are invited to visit their website at www.worflc.org/index.htm.

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