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**LOCAL TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM TO RECEIVE
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES THROUGH MERGER**

Pathways Transitional Living program becomes Cornerstones of Care – Pathways Wichita

Wichita, KS, February 7, 2017 – Located on the outer-edge of the College Hill neighborhood lays a transitional living program. It provides encouragement, guidance and safe apartment-style living to 22 young adults who previously lacked a stable living environment. Some youth have no living parents, some were in foster care; but most have experienced trauma such as abuse and neglect. A team of 20 trauma-informed experts strive to help each individual, referred by the State of Kansas, gain independence and successfully transition back into the community.

In an effort to meet the community's growing need of transitional housing and support, the Ozanam Pathways Transitional Living program was expanded from its original Kansas City roots to Wichita in 2000. The program now serves 75 young adults annually.

Nearly 20 years ago, *Gillis, Healthy Families, Marillac, Ozanam and Spofford* come together create Cornerstones of Care. The pathways transitional living program was a staple to assisting youth. Every day since, they have been working together to maximize impact for those served – more than 12,000 children and families last year alone.

On January 1, 2017, Cornerstones of Care legally merged with Gillis, Healthy Families, Marillac, Ozanam and Spofford to create a single, higher impact organization. In coming together, Cornerstones of Care will have additional resources to improve the safety and health of even more children and families in the Wichita community.

A STRONGER VOICE

As one organization, Cornerstones of Care will advocate for youth in transitional living with an amplified, single voice, ultimately strengthening services in communities. The newly-merged organization will provide 900+ trauma-informed experts to increase the quality and consistency of care for children and families across 11 locations in Kansas, Missouri and beyond.

“As a family of agencies, Cornerstones of Care has always been focused on meeting the health and safety needs of children and families,” says Denise Cross, president and CEO. “Everything from working to recruit and license foster homes, providing trainings to raise awareness of human trafficking, or connecting older foster youth to ongoing education – it’s all with the vision to keep our communities safe and healthy. This next step in our evolution allows us to do even more. We can proactively respond to new and emerging needs and to deliver an even higher quality of consistent care. We are now a stronger partner for the children and families we serve, and with the communities where we live, work and play.”

CAPACITY TO SERVE MORE CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Cornerstones of Care will invest in expanding trauma-informed interventions to ensure more children, families and communities have the resources and support they need to be safe and healthy. Many of those

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served by Cornerstones of Care have experienced significant trauma or adversity, which can potentially lead to poor mental or physical health, unemployment and poverty, incarceration, or repeating cycles of abuse or neglect.

Over the years I've witnessed Pathways serve as a bridge to making dreams come true," says Lauren Collins, Pathways – Wichita program manager. "The youth we serve enter our program with goals of becoming an engineer, nurse, medical illustrator, barber and veterinarian. Through collaboration with our community, we're able to offer opportunities to make those dreams a reality. It is exciting to be part of the transformative growth and change. Youth enter our care as a questioning child and leave as an independent adult."

RESOURCES TO CREATE BETTER ACCESS TO INTEGRATED HEALTH

Cornerstones of Care will create new, innovative solutions that meet the evolving health needs of our communities. The organization understands that health is more than physical or mental well-being, and together, their team of 900+ will provide local children and families additional access to its 36 programs and services. With a vision to improve whole-person health in all communities, Cornerstones of Care will leverage decades of expertise to build bridges that connect children and families to the local resources they need to grow and thrive.

Learn more about the collective impact of Cornerstones of Care by visiting the new cornerstonesofcare.org or talk with them on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [LinkedIn](#).

About Cornerstones of Care:

Cornerstones of Care has a long legacy of partnering with children, young adults, and families to create safe and healthy communities. Through our decades of trauma-informed expertise, we effect positive change in our communities, raise awareness and give a stronger voice to those in need, and deliver a fully integrated approach to care.

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