

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



**FIVE LOCAL & LONG-TIME PARTNERS LEGALLY UNITE TO INCREASE IMPACT**

*Legacy Agencies Gillis, Healthy Families, Marillac, Ozanam and Spofford take the next step in their journey together – becoming one organization.*

Kansas City, MO., January 9, 2017 – The Cornerstones of Care family (Gillis, Healthy Families, Marillac, Ozanam and Spofford) has a long legacy of serving children and families in Kansas City and beyond. Cumulatively, they have been changing lives for more than 400 years. The vision to do even more for children and families led the founding agencies to create Cornerstones of Care nearly 20 years ago. Every day since, they have been working together and sharing expertise to maximize impact for those served – more than 12,000 children and families last year alone.



*Missy Creed, pictured is available for interviews*

**On January 1, 2017, the family of agencies fully united and merged into a single, higher-impact organization – Cornerstones of Care.** In coming together, Cornerstones of Care will improve the safety and health of even more children and families.

**A STRONGER VOICE**

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

- Education
- Mental & Behavioral Health
- Foster Care & Adoption
- Youth Support
- Family Support
- Community trainings

“As a family of agencies, Cornerstones of Care has always been focused on meeting the health, safety and educational needs of children and families,” says Denise Cross, president and CEO. “Everything from building K-12 therapeutic schools, providing trainings to raise awareness of human trafficking or working to recruit and license foster homes – 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. As one organization, we can proactively respond to new and emerging needs and to deliver an even higher quality of consistent care. Together, we are 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**

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As one organization, 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 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.

“Our collective years of experience have shown us the unfortunate, long-term consequences when services like ours are not available,” says Terry Putney of Transition Advisors, LLC and the Cornerstones of Care Board Chair. “We want every child and family to have the opportunity to be successful, whether it’s a child in the classroom, a first-time parent, or a young adult transitioning out of foster care. Coming together strengthens our current services while also allowing us to focus efforts on meeting the growing needs we know are there.”

Through its many treatment, education and support services, Cornerstones of Care helps these children and families improve their mental, physical and behavioral health, and build towards a safe and healthy future. Cornerstones of Care supports safe and healthy communities through its critical prevention services. These services, ranging from weekly relationship classes to in-home intensive supports, partner with children and families to improve skills and access resources that help build a safe and healthy family unit.

### RESOURCES TO CREATE BETTER ACCESS TO INTEGRATED HEALTH

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

Missy Creed, a Cornerstones of Care treatment foster care and adoptive parent, cites the “whole team” working together to meet needs of both foster children and foster parents. A year and a half into placement of three children, one child was admitted to residential treatment on the Spofford Campus. “Due to whole team support, the placement stayed intact and she was able to stay with her sisters,” says Missy. Now, all children in care of the Creed family receive outpatient services from Cornerstones of Care.

Learn more about the collective impact of Cornerstones of Care by visiting the new [cornerstonesofcare.org](https://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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