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Press Release

For Immediate Release
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Contact: Nickey Stamey, 828-682-0047

Mitchell-Yancey Health Families, a Healthy Families America Site, Accredited for Quality Service by Prevent Child Abuse America *Leading National Child Abuse Prevention Organization Accredits Healthy Families America site in Mitchell and Yancey Counties to Serve Families*

Burnsville, NC – Prevent Child Abuse America (PCA America) announced today that the Healthy Families America (HFA) affiliate, Mitchell-Yancey Healthy Families (MYHF) has been accredited as a provider of high quality home visiting services to families who want to improve their child’s health, nutrition and developmental outcomes.

HFA is a signature program of PCA America that has been providing home visiting services for more than 20 years. Expectant and new parents have common questions about their child’s development. HFA connects with families through community partners like hospitals and pediatricians to find the answers to their questions, meeting within the familiarity and convenience of the family’s own home. HFA is an accessible, voluntary and well received service.

“Parents want to be good parents; and as parents we all have had many questions when it comes to raising a child,” said Jim Hmurovich, President and CEO of PCA America. “HFA’s well-trained home visitors are trusted sources in their own communities. They help provide answers to those questions, individualized support when it is needed most, and linkages to other community services. HFA requires community agency involvement and the commitment of community leaders. As we congratulate MYHF we also recognize the state and community leadership that has contributed to success in Mitchell and Yancey Counties.”

The accreditation process is based upon a stringent set of 12 critical elements grounded in more than 30 years of research. The process involves an in-depth examination of the site’s operation, as well as, the quality of the visits made by HFA home visitors.

“We commend MYHF for opening itself up to such an intensive review process,” said Cydney Wessel, National Director of HFA. “We believe that all families and all communities deserve access to quality home visiting services.”



The HFA site in Mitchell and Yancey County is located at 7 S. Main Street Burnsville; 828-682-5091.

“We are so excited to be serving families as fully accredited site! It was a lot of hard work but there is an amazing team at MYHF that really care about the quality of service our families receive” says Nickey Stamey, MYHF Program Director.

MYHF is a true collaborative effort between many agencies in the service area. MYHF is a program of the Toe River Health District and the Blue Ridge Partnership for Children. The MYHF Leadership Team is blessed to have the expertise of Graham’s Children Health Services, both Mitchell and Yancey County Department of Social Services, Smoky Mountain Center and the faith community. Jeannie and Mark Ownbey of Morganton have both served as the NC Healthy Families America Consultant and have generously provided critical training and guidance that has contributed to the success of MYHF.

“We are in our third year of service and look forward to continuing to serve families for many years to come.”

Home visitors in each community receive extensive training in a wide range of areas that can cause stress and worry to just about every new parent: caring for a new baby, ensuring the baby is receiving the nutrition needed, promoting healthy child development and coping with a myriad of other potential stresses, such as financial, housing, partner relationship, etc., that may become heightened with an addition to the family.

“When parental stress can be managed effectively, children enjoy safer, healthier and more loving experiences, regardless of the parent’s income or standing,” says Hmurovich.

HFA is the sole topic featured in an issue of The Journal of Prevention and Intervention in the Community (Volume 34, Numbers 1/2 2007). The title of the issue is “The Healthy Families America Initiative: Integrating Research, Theory, and Practice,” and was edited by researcher Dr. Joe Galano. There are 11 distinct articles about various aspects of HFA and authors include a number of PCA America national office staff including Senior Director of Research, Kathryn Harding.

PCA America was established in 1972 with the belief that child abuse and neglect is preventable. The not-for-profit, volunteer-based organization is committed to preventing child abuse in all forms through education, research, public awareness, and public policy development. Today, PCA America has 50 statewide chapters.

PCA America implemented the Healthy Families America (HFA) initiative in 1992 in partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities, building on two decades of research in the field of home visiting. HFA serves families of all ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds, meeting the needs of close to 600 communities in 40 states, DC, the U.S. Territories and Canada.

Healthy Families America is an effective and proven evidence-based home visiting program according to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. PCA America is proud to support HFA and to be part of a national coalition of organizations dedicated to improving the home visiting field.

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