



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Kids FIRST EARNS RE-ACCREDITATION
FROM NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE**

National Children's Alliance recognizes Kids FIRST for its ongoing delivery of high quality and effective services to child abuse victims through accreditation

Eugene, OR, January 27, 2021 – Kids FIRST has been awarded re-accreditation by National Children's Alliance following an extensive application and site review process. As the accrediting agency for Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC) across the country, National Children's Alliance awards various levels of accreditation and membership to centers responding to allegations of child abuse in ways that are effective and efficient, and put the needs of child victims of abuse first. Accreditation is the highest level of membership with National Children's Alliance and denotes excellence in service provision.

Accredited CACs must undergo a re-accreditation process every five years to ensure that best practices are continually being applied. With accreditation standards being updated in 2010, re-accreditation this year reflects Kids FIRST's commitment to providing evidence-based methods practice.

As an Accredited Member of National Children's Alliance, Kids FIRST is dedicated to providing comprehensive, coordinated and compassionate services to victims of child abuse. Kids FIRST was founded in 1994 and serves over 600 children per year.

National Children's Alliance awards Accredited Membership based on a CAC's compliance with 10 national standards of accreditation to ensure effective, efficient and consistent delivery of services to child abuse victims. Accredited Members must utilize a functioning and effective Multidisciplinary Team approach to work collaboratively in child abuse investigation, prosecution, and treatment. National Children's Alliance also considers standards regarding a center's cultural competency and diversity, forensic interviews, victim support and advocacy, medical evaluation, therapeutic intervention, and child focused setting.

"Lane County's Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Team (MDT), which includes Kids FIRST, law enforcement, child welfare, prosecution, schools and more, recognizes the importance of maintaining Accredited status from National Children's Alliance. Re-accreditation not only validates our own organization's dedication to proven effective approaches of child abuse intervention and prevention, but also the commitment from our MDT partners to work collaboratively on behalf of child victims of abuse in Lane County," said Sarah Stewart, Kids FIRST Executive Director.

"Kids FIRST is to be commended for its continued commitment to effectively serve victims of child abuse. As the national association and accrediting body for Children's Advocacy Centers across the country, our goal is to ensure that every victim of child abuse has access to high quality services that result from professional collaboration. By requiring Accredited Centers to undergo re-Accreditation every five years, we ensure that evidence-based practices are being implemented and the highest quality of service is being provided," remarked Teresa Huizar, Executive Director of National Children's Alliance.

For more information about Kids FIRST, visit www.kidsfirstcenter.net



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Kids FIRST is Lane County's Children's Advocacy Center. When the unimaginable happens to children in our community, Kids FIRST is part of the first response team that supports the healing process. At Kids FIRST, children receive medical exams, forensic interviews, and advocacy when criminal child abuse has been reported.

National Children's Alliance is the national association and accrediting body for the over 750 children's advocacy centers serving each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Dedicated to helping local communities respond to allegations of child abuse in ways that are effective and efficient, and put the needs of child victims of abuse first, National Children's Alliance provides support and advocacy to its accredited membership, as well as numerous developing centers, multidisciplinary teams and child abuse professionals around the country, and the world. As the national authority on multidisciplinary approaches to supporting child victims of abuse, the purpose of National Children's Alliance is to empower local communities to provide comprehensive, coordinated and compassionate services to victims of child abuse. Founded in 1998, National Children's Alliance provides accreditation opportunities, financial assistance, training, technical assistance, research and education to communities, child abuse professionals and children's advocacy centers throughout the United States in support of child abuse intervention, advocacy and prevention. www.nationalchildrensalliance.org