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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 12, 2017

HELPING HAND HOME ACHIEVES NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

(Austin, TX) Helping Hand Home for Children has achieved national accreditation through the New York-based Council on Accreditation (COA). Helping Hand Home for Children provides the following services: residential treatment, foster care, adoption and family support. It took Helping Hand Home fourteen months to achieve accreditation. Organizations pursue accreditation to demonstrate the implementation of best practice standards in the field of human services. COA evaluated all aspects of Helping Hand Home for Children's programs, services, management, and administration.

COA accreditation is an objective, independent, and reliable validation of an agency's performance. The COA accreditation process involves a detailed review and analysis of an organization's administration, management, and service delivery functions against international standards of best practice. The standards driving accreditation ensure that services are well-coordinated, culturally competent, evidence-based, outcomes-oriented, and provided by a skilled and supported workforce. COA accreditation demonstrates accountability in the management of resources, sets standardized best practice thresholds for service and administration, and increases organizational capacity and accountability by creating a framework for ongoing quality improvement.

To achieve COA accreditation, Helping Hand Home for Children first provided written evidence of compliance with the COA standards. Thereafter, a group of specially trained volunteer Peer Reviewers confirmed adherence to these standards during a series of on-site interviews with trustees, staff and clients.

Based on their findings, COA's volunteer-based Accreditation Commission voted that Helping Hand Home for Children had successfully met the criteria for accreditation. This nationally recognized accreditation was no small feat. Out of 75 residential treatment centers licensed in Texas, only four have achieved COA accreditation, including Helping Hand Home for Children.

"Helping Hand Home holds itself to high standards in service delivery and has always been committed to continuous improvement, and this accreditation validates our efforts and our results. Our Board, leadership and staff are extremely proud of this accomplishment," said Ted Keyser, Executive Director of Helping Hand Home for Children.

Founded in 1977, COA is an independent, not-for-profit accreditor of the full continuum of community-based behavioral health care and social service organizations in the United States and Canada. Over 2,000 organizations — voluntary, public, and proprietary; local and statewide; large and small — have either successfully achieved COA accreditation or are currently engaged

in the process. Presently, COA has a total of 47 service standards that are applicable to over 125 different types of programs. To learn more about COA, please visit www.COAnet.org.

About Helping Hand Home for Children

Since 1893, Helping Hand Home has transformed the lives of thousands of children by providing a nurturing and therapeutic home for those who have suffered unimaginable abuse and neglect. Our goal is to protect and restore the lives of victimized children so that those without hope may reclaim their futures. Through our Residential Treatment Center, onsite charter school and a growing Foster and Adoption Program, we combine loving care, professional treatment and innovative services that deliver real results. For more information about Helping Hand Home for Children, please visit www.helpinghandhome.org.

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