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All Star Children's Foundation Appoints Clinical Team for its Outpatient Treatment Center

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(SARASOTA, FL) All-Star Children's Foundation has appointed four clinical professionals with expertise in childhood trauma to staff its outpatient treatment services. Since starting its outpatient clinical program on April 1, All Star has received 92 referrals for children needing trauma therapy. All Star's three clinical counselors and its clinical director currently work at All Star's temporary offices in Sarasota until the state-of-the-art clinical building opens in October. The organization plans to hire two more clinicians in 2019 and two in 2020.

Graci McGillicuddy, All Star Children's Foundation's board chair, said that the community's overwhelming need and funders' support empowered the decision to offer outpatient treatment before the campus is completed.

"Our team is already working with many children involved in child welfare cases," says McGillicuddy. "The referrals we receive come from case managers, diversion counselors, child protective investigators, and foster parents." She adds that All Star's clinical counselors have received specialized training to work with children and families who have experienced trauma. Clinicians are trained in several evidenced-based treatment protocols, including PCIT, CPP, TF-CBT and ARC.

Lucia Branton, All Star's executive director, explains that the clinical team recently experienced a breakthrough with a teenager who has been in counseling off and on for many years. "After working with our specially-trained therapists, the teen opened up about the root of her issues—something she had never done before. It took a level of safety for her to do that, and that's what All Star is based on—trauma therapy and creating a psychologically safe environment that will foster healing."

The clinical team is headed up by Kimberly Treharne, LMHC, director. Counselors include Dawn Affeldt, LMHC, Samantha Ericson, LMHC, and Bailey A. Jackson, MSW.

According to McGillicuddy, All Star has implemented an unprecedented, trauma-informed program that delivers the latest evidence-based protocols and treatments for foster children and their biological families. Partnering with leaders across the child welfare system, the non-profit organization has tapped best-in-class partners to assist in their mission. Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital (JHACH) is providing critical clinical consultation, as well as serving as the lead research entity.

"When our campus opens, we'll provide children who have been abused, when first removed from their homes, a nurturing, family-style home environment and comprehensive, trauma-sensitive treatment," says McGillicuddy. "We'll keep siblings together and offer them a full range of innovative services, informed by the latest findings in brain science."

All Star is currently seeking six couples to become foster parents in six single-family homes on its new campus. Interested applicants should contact Lindsey May, ASCF's program director, at 941-217-6503.

For more information about All Star Children's Foundation, visit www.allstarchildrensfoundation.org. The campus is located at 3300 17th St, Sarasota.

About All Star Children's Foundation

All Star Children's Foundation is a public, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to healing the effects of child abuse and transforming foster care through innovation, science, and compassion. This project has been partially funded under an agreement with the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families. A donation today can change a child's future. For more information, visit www.allstarchildrensfoundation.org; call 941-349-2770; or email KateR@ascf.care.