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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



**CORNERSTONES OF CARE SEEKS SPECIAL HOMES FOR KIDS IN BUCHANAN COUNTY**

St. Joseph, MO – Sept. 17, 2018 – Of the 100 children and youth in state custody in Buchanan County, several are in immediate need of Treatment Foster Care—the highest level of foster care. Cornerstones of Care will be holding informational meetings on to help identify potential Treatment Foster Homes in the St. Joseph area communities.

“Children and youth in our community who have been removed from their homes for their safety need compassionate, therapeutic foster parents who can help them heal in home settings,” said Valyn McClellan, Resource Development Manager for Cornerstones of Care. “They recover from trauma so much better when they are in homes and in their community.”

Treatment Foster Care is therapeutic care for children and youth with special medical, psychological, emotional or social needs, who can accept and respond to the close relationships within a family setting, but whose needs require intensive or therapeutic services. These foster families receive specialized trainings and 24/7 access to support. There is regular communication with Cornerstones of Care’s trauma-informed team to provide families with enhanced and an individualized level of support to help youth heal and prepare for the future.

Treatment Foster Care keeps children out of in-patient hospitals and group homes, which are more expensive for states to fund. According to research available, youth in Treatment Foster Care have equal or better therapeutic outcomes when compared to similar youth in institutional treatment or traditional foster care.

Cornerstones of Care recruits, trains, licenses and supports foster homes in the 30-county northwest Missouri region. There are 38 foster homes in Missouri’s Fifth Circuit, which includes Andrew and Buchanan County. As Cornerstones of Care is working to increase the number of foster homes throughout northwest Missouri, it is focusing special attention on recruiting Treatment Foster Homes in Buchanan County. “Generally, the demand for safe, stable and nurturing foster homes has been growing,” said McClellan. “The same is true for Treatment Foster Homes with children and youth needing this care comprising about ten percent of the out-of-home population. It takes a special family to make this kind of commitment, but the rewards cannot be over-stated.”

**Informational meetings about Treatment Foster Care will be held Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4 to 6 pm and on Monday, September 24<sup>th</sup> from 530 to 730 pm at Fairview Golf Course, located at 3302 Pacific Saint Joseph, MO.**

For more information or to register, please contact Conni Muff at (816) 401-4017 or email at [conni.muff@cornerstonesofcare.org](mailto:conni.muff@cornerstonesofcare.org).

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**About Cornerstones of Care:**

Cornerstones of Care has a long legacy of partnering with children and families to create safe and healthy communities. It serves more than 10,000 children and families through education, mental and behavioral health, foster care & adoption, youth & family support, and community trainings in Kansas, Missouri and beyond. For more information, visit [cornerstonesofcare.org](http://cornerstonesofcare.org).