



Building Brighter Tomorrows for Families and Children

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DATE 11/7/2008

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Successful Teen Independent Living Program Opens New Location In Kansas City

Kansas City, KS November 7, 2008 – TRAIL (Teens Reaching Adult Independent Living) celebrated the opening of its new location in Kansas City, KS with an Open House on November, 7, 2008. TRAIL is a program of Pathway Family Services, Inc., a member of the TFI Family of Companies.

Pathway Family Services' Independent Living program, TRAIL, meets the need for teens who are aging out of the foster care program or who need a different living option to learn basic life skills before reaching that crucial point of living out on their own as a young adult.

Pathway Family Services' Transitional Living Program (TLP) services were first implemented in Topeka, KS in early 2007. After identifying that adolescents would benefit from varying degrees of structure, Community Integration Program (CIP) services were added. Due to the demand of Independent Living services, TRAIL expanded to Wichita in late 2007. Pathway now has its third location in a building they bought and renovated, in Kansas City. KC TRAIL opened its doors on October 3, 2008 and has the capacity to house up to 15 teens.

TRAIL's Open House was well attended by those with who work with teens and in child welfare. One Juvenile Justice Authority (JJA) Case Worker stated, "I have had three kids placed in the other TRAIL locations. All three have graduated high school and the TRAIL program successfully. One of the kids has gone on to college. That is true success!"

The TRAIL Independent Living Specialists who oversee the Wichita and Topeka locations also came by to support the new location. When asked what the greatest benefit of working with the teens, Crystal Welborn, LMSW, stated, "It is seeing a resident take ownership for himself and learn the tools he needs to thrive and be successful out on hisr own." Welborn is the Independent Living Specialist overseeing the new KC TRAIL.

TRAIL pays for the teen's rent and utilities so that they can focus on building a savings account. All TRAIL apartments are fully furnished. Teens accepted to the program receive weekly allowances to be used towards daily living expenses including transportation and groceries. In TRAIL's Transitional Living Program, teens have roommates and are all housed in the same apartment complex with an onsite case manager who is available to them 24/7. To be successfully discharged from TRAIL, teens complete four of the five program goals - finish their education, learn the basic life skills, home management, finding and keeping a job, budgeting and financial management. To refer a Teen or find out more about the program, email IMD@the-farm.org or call 877-921-4114

ABOUT Pathway Family Services, Inc. - As a member of the TFI Family of Companies, Pathway Family Services, Inc. is focused on serving children and families, offering them the right resources and tools, so that they can make it in today's world. To learn more about TFI Family Services and Pathway Family Services, Inc. visit our website, www.the-farm.org. - **END** -