



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 3, 2008

CONTACT:

April Klutenkamper
636-946-5600, ext. 200 (office)
314-488-5366 (cell)

Youth In Need Receives Accreditation from Council on Accreditation

Youth In Need recently received notification from the Council on Accreditation (COA) that it achieved its re-accreditation for 2008. Youth In Need was first accredited in 2004, and COA has approved its accreditation through 2012.

COA accreditation involves an extensive review of all agency operations and functions, including management of finances, risk prevention and safety, human resources, client rights, ethical practices, governance and quality improvement. The accreditation process reviews and analyzes an organization's administrative operations and service delivery against national standards of best practice.

The accreditation honor is a representation of countless hours of hard work and dedication by staff and board members. One lead COA peer reviewer who handled Youth In Need's accreditation said, "The agency is innovative, creative and committed. The staff are mission-driven. The level of Board involvement is impressive, and the CEO is well respected."

Achieving COA accreditation calls for an organization to meet hundreds of standards of excellence for the administrative practices and programs. By meeting these requirements and gaining accreditation, Youth In Need is telling its clients, donors and key stakeholders that it is committed to its mission and providing the highest quality of services.

COA accreditation means an organization is meeting the highest national standards of best practice and is offering the best quality services to the community it reaches. COA, founded in 1977, is an independent, not-for-profit accreditor of community-based behavioral health care and social services organizations. Its mission is to partner with human service organizations worldwide to enhance service delivery outcomes.

Youth In Need is an eastern Missouri regional agency serving more than 10,000 children, teens and families each year with residential group homes, homeless street outreach, education, counseling and support groups, foster care case management and infant, child and family development programs. Youth In

-more-

Need's mission: *Believing in the power of potential, Youth In Need's mission is to provide nurturing environments and educational opportunities so children, youth, and families will find safety and hope, achieve their goals, and build a positive future.* Youth In Need's programs and services are funded, in part, by its 2008 Corporate Partners, including Culpeppers Grill & Bar as the exclusive Principal Partner. Visit www.youthinneed.org for a complete listing of Youth In Need's Champion, Guardian, Trustee and Patron Partners.

###