



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Sinnissippi Centers' Healthy Families America Site, Accredited for Quality Service
Leading National Child Abuse Prevention Organization Accredits Healthy Families America site

(Dixon, IL)

Prevent Child Abuse America (**PCA America**) announced today that Sinnissippi Centers', a Healthy Families America (**HFA**) affiliate site, has been accredited as a provider of high-quality home visiting services to pregnant families and families with infants and young children.

HFA is the signature program of PCA America and has been providing home visiting services for nearly 30 years. Expectant and new parents have common questions about their child's development. HFA connects with families through community partners like hospitals and pediatricians to support parents, meeting within the familiarity and convenience of the family's own home. HFA is an accessible, voluntary, and well received service.

"HFA sites utilize evidence-based best practices to provide individualized support to families when needed most, and linkages to community services," said **Melissa Merrick, President and CEO of PCA America**. "We congratulate Sinnissippi Centers and we commend the staff for their leadership and commitment that has contributed to this most notable and highly regarded achievement." The accreditation is effective through December 2024.

The accreditation process is based upon a stringent set of 12 critical elements grounded in more than 30 years of research. The process involves an in-depth examination of Sinnissippi Centers' operations, as well as the quality of the visits made by HFA home visitors.

"We commend Sinnissippi Centers for opening itself up to such an intensive review process," said **Kathleen Strader, National Director of HFA**. "We believe that all families and all communities deserve access to quality home visiting services."

Sinnissippi Centers' Healthy Families America **Program Manager Kim Crump says**, "We are very proud of our staff for attaining this high level of quality in our programming. It's our passion to serve family and children to provide them the best chances and opportunities to grow, be healthy, and to succeed."

Sinnissippi Centers HFI program has provided home visiting services for over 20 years and is part of a community coalition of early childhood providers and advocates, called STARS," says **Gloria Martin, Sinnissippi Centers' Director, Child and Adolescent Services**. "This group was recently awarded a grant by Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development to implement an Information and Referral System (IRIS) to enhance coordination of area home visiting programs," adds Martin.

Continued on page 2



Continued from page 1

Home visitors in each community receive extensive training on a wide range of topics important to just about every new parent, such as: caring for a new baby, ensuring the baby is receiving the nutrition needed, promoting healthy child development, and coping with a myriad of other potential stresses, such as financial, housing, partner relationship, etc., that may become heightened with an addition to the family.

PCA America was established in 1972 with the belief that child abuse and neglect is preventable. The not-for-profit, volunteer-based organization is committed to preventing child abuse in all forms through education, research, public awareness, and public policy development. Today, PCA America has 50 statewide chapters.

PCA America implemented the Healthy Families America (HFA) initiative in 1992. HFA serves families of all ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds, meeting the needs of close to 600 communities in 38 states, D.C., the U.S. Territories and Israel.

Healthy Families America is an effective and proven evidence-based home visiting program according to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. PCA America is proud to support HFA and to be part of a national movement dedicated to improving the lives of families and children.

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