

For Immediate Release

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Nexus Announces Merger with Family Focus

Nexus, a Minnesota-based nonprofit 501 (C) 3 organization and leader in child and adolescent treatment services for nearly 40 years, is pleased to announce a merger with Family Focus, a Minneapolis-based nonprofit foster care and adoption agency, effective March 3, 2011.

Nexus operates residential treatment, group homes, transitional living programs, educational and vocational services in Minnesota and Illinois for children and adolescents experiencing severe emotional and behavioral problems, exhibiting harmful sexual behaviors, and those with special needs. Additionally, Nexus operates hospital-based inpatient psychiatric services in Illinois. Altogether, Nexus provides treatment services for approximately 360 children and adolescents.

Guided by its long-range plan, Nexus actively seeks compatible merger partners and acquisitions that are like-minded and like-missioned and that can assist Nexus in extending its continuum of care and its mission: "Changing lives through our cornerstone values."

Family Focus is an ideal merger partner. The agency has a ten year history of providing foster care, adoption, and other supportive services to youth who require temporary placement in foster homes. Family Focus has an experienced leadership team and a long-standing team of staff members who provide professional services to the children in their care. The agency's mission and values align very well with Nexus. Family Focus currently provides care for almost 100 foster children in 100 foster homes.

The merger of these organizations strongly positions both organizations for the future. This partnership enables Nexus to extend its continuum of care to provide better treatment outcomes and more stable post-discharge placements. It allows Family Focus greater access to resources. Together, the combined organizations will provide a better continuity of care for the youth they serve.

As Nexus CEO, David Hutchinson, said of the merger, "Our experience with mergers and acquisitions has taught us to be selective in our choice of partners. Win-win arrangements are best and the integration of the organization is indispensable to success. Nexus and Family Focus are fundamentally aligned in values, mission, and approach toward the needs of those we serve. This merger will enable us both to provide more and better services to more children in need."

The merger provides Family Focus with a large and financially sound organization that delivers economy of scale and a vision of growth headed by Nexus' CEO and its board of directors. Nexus offers an innovative treatment culture, strong fiscal discipline, focused planning and development activities, and a sophisticated information technology platform. Merger with Family Focus allows Nexus to extend its

service lines into foster care, in-home services, and community-based services. This service extension will offer improved outcomes and placements following discharge of Nexus clients.

According to Debra Langer, Executive Director of Family Focus, “Family Focus has a long history of providing high quality foster care and adoption services in the state. Joining forces with Nexus allows us to continue our mission of service to children in need and will better position us for the future.”

Currently, Nexus operates four academies with onsite schools, two group homes, and a transitional living program in two states. The company also manages two inpatient psychiatric units for adolescents:

- Mille Lacs Academy (Onamia, MN) – residential treatment for up to 96 boys ages 10 -19 exhibiting harmful sexual behaviors; the academy also operates a group home for up to 8 boys.
- Gerard Academy (Austin, MN) – residential treatment for up to 77 boys and girls with severe emotional and behavioral problems, ages 6 – 19.
- Indian Oaks Academy (Manteno, IL) – residential treatment for up to 105 boys and girls, ages 12 – 20 years, with severe emotional and behavior problems, harmful sexual behaviors, and special needs; additionally, Indian Oaks provides a vocational program for its residents. Nexus operates two 8-bed hospital-based psychiatric units – one for boys and one for girls in nearby Kankakee, IL.
- Onarga Academy (Onarga, IL) – residential treatment for up to 90 boys, ages 12 – 20, suffering from emotional and behavioral problems as well as harmful sexual behaviors; Onarga also operates a group home and a transitional living program as part of its aftercare services. The Academy offers a vocational program and a program addressing issues of chemical health.

Nexus’ corporate headquarters is located in Plymouth, MN.