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Kristi House receives grant to assist South Dade providers **Health Foundation of South Florida supports plan to spread evidence-based practice for child trauma to social workers and clinicians in southern-most Miami-Dade County**

Miami, FL – Kristi House, Inc., the not-for-profit Children’s Advocacy Center serving Miami-Dade County that provides services and coordination of cases for child-victims of sexual abuse and sex trafficking, has been awarded a \$30,900 grant from Health Foundation of South Florida to extend its training reach to providers serving Deep South Dade.

The capacity-building grant will bring Kristi House specialists to workers from Homestead, Florida City, Naranja and Leisure City. Kristi House trainers with expertise in helping child-victims overcome the trauma of sexual abuse will provide yearlong training and practice consultation in the leading evidence-based intervention for child trauma. Mental health clinicians, case coordinators and interns from MUJER, En Familia and Homestead Police’s SOS (Start Off Smart) will participate in the program on Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.

This grant supports Kristi House’s South Dade Initiative, established a year ago to improve services for child-victims of sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation in an area of Miami-Dade County where services for sexual abuse victims are few or lacking entirely.

“As the Children’s Advocacy Center established by Florida Statute responsible for coordinating cases in all of Miami-Dade County, our Board of Directors articulated improving our presence in Deep South Dade as a strategic priority in September 2015,” CEO Claudia Kitchens said. “The Health Foundation of South Florida’s support for this project will take us another step closer to improving services and outcomes for children in need.”

Kristi House is a federal SAMHSA grantee that has been responsible for training 172 child-serving professionals from 17 South Florida agencies and organizations over the past four years in trauma-informed practice and evidence-based interventions. Kristi House’s work has earned it membership in the preeminent national body for child trauma, National Child Traumatic Stress Network.

“This grant provides an opportunity for us to further spread evidence-based practices, national resources and the expertise our staff has developed over the past 21 years,” Board Chair Kara Zeder said.

The intervention to be taught is Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, the empirically supported treatment for child trauma, particularly children who have been sexually abused. It is the cornerstone of Kristi House’s therapy practice. This grant project will ensure that Deep South Dade clinicians get all the necessary training, practice, follow up consultation and supervision in the model so they are able to deliver the intervention with fidelity and make use of the best practice assessment tools to monitor and assess client progress.

“With one in four girls and one in six boys sexually abused by the time of their 18th birthday, we recognized at Kristi House that we need to help as many clinicians and social workers as possible implement best practice treatment for children impacted by sexual abuse,” Kitchens said. “We are pleased to see Health Foundation recognize the seriousness of this public health epidemic impacting so many families, and giving us the opportunity to further spread the resources of the NCTSN.”

ABOUT HEALTH FOUNDATION OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Health Foundation of South Florida, a nonprofit grant making organization, is dedicated to improving health in Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. By funding providers and supporting programs to promote health and prevent disease, the Foundation makes a measurable and sustainable impact in the health of individuals and families. Since 1993, the Foundation has awarded more than \$106 million in grants and program support. For more information, please call 305.374.7200 or visit the website, www.hfsf.org.

ABOUT KRISTI HOUSE

Kristi House, Inc., the Children’s Advocacy Center for all of Miami-Dade County, is dedicated to providing a healing environment for child victims of sexual abuse and their families. This approach includes coordinating client families’ involvement with legal, medical and mental health systems, limiting the number of interviews to reduce the trauma associated with each retelling of the story, and ensuring that no child falls through the gaps. Kristi House also directly provides a full continuum of wrap-around services and care for victims and their families free of charge, including therapy, which is critical for recovery from the trauma of sexual abuse for most survivors.

Kristi House is centrally located in the “Health District” area of Miami at 1265 NW 12 Avenue. Three satellite locations in other parts of Miami-Dade County serve clients in surrounding neighborhoods. Founded in 1995, Kristi House has provided services for more than 14,750 victims of child sexual abuse and their families to help them recover from the trauma of child sexual abuse and exploitation. Services include case coordination, therapy, referral, transportation, advocacy, client emergency assistance, as well as prevention education and training. For more information, visit www.kristihouse.org.