



## News Release

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Kathy Rowan, Corder Philips 704.338.7219 or [krowan@corderphilips.com](mailto:krowan@corderphilips.com)  
Ginny Amendum, Thompson Child & Family Focus, 704.644.4348 or [gamendum@thompsoncff.org](mailto:gamendum@thompsoncff.org)

### Thompson Child & Family Focus and The Family Center Announce Merger

#### ***Combined Resources to Strengthen Continuum of Services for At-Risk Children and Families in North Carolina***

**Charlotte, N.C., June 20, 2008** – Thompson Child & Family Focus and The Family Center, two nonprofit Charlotte-based agencies that serve at-risk children and families in N.C., today announced they have agreed to merge programming, services, staff and operations. The merger is a result of ongoing strategic discussions at the leadership level of both agencies, as they sought proactive solutions to two key concerns confronting many nonprofits today – the overlapping and duplication of services, and the need to develop economies of scale around administering those services. By consolidating collective expertise, Thompson and the Family Center will be able to provide the highest level of specialized care in the most cost effective manner possible.

All programming and services will be united under the Thompson Child & Family Focus name, with administrative headquarters located at Thompson’s main campus, 6800 Saint Peter’s Lane. The blended organization will have an operating budget of approximately \$15 million and will employ almost 200 staff.

“This collaborative alliance will significantly advance the mutual mission embodied by the spirit and work at both agencies – one that seeks to lift up and help heal the lives of children and families that society too often overlooks,” said Bob Glusenkamp, chairman of the Thompson board of trustees.

“We are very enthusiastic about this partnership because it maximizes the opportunities for successful outcomes and expands our shared desire to bring hope to a broader base of families who need our support,” added Bob Dooley, chairman, board of directors of The Family Center.

“Ultimately, this alignment of programs and services will provide a stronger continuum of educational and mental health services as well as help to support North Carolina’s vision of best-practices for mental health reform,” said Ginny Amendum, president of Thompson.

“While Thompson and the Family Center each have distinct areas of expertise, both organizations exist to improve the lives of children and families who require intensive interventions to overcome adverse circumstances that may include abuse, neglect, poverty and limited access to education.” said Amendum. “The merger is greeted with hope and excitement by all those connected with both agencies.”

### **About Thompson Child & Family Focus**

Thompson Child & Family Focus was founded as an orphanage in 1886. It has evolved into a leading provider of effective clinical and behavioral treatment, developmental education, and proactive care for at-risk children and families. Thompson operates two campuses in Charlotte, with an operating budget of almost \$11 million and 170 staff. The Thompson Saint Peter’s Lane campus in Matthews provides an array of services including intense clinical residential treatment; day treatment programs that combine strong therapeutic intervention with individualized classroom academics; outpatient and off-site, specialized treatment and support for families experiencing attachment disorder issues; and foster/adoptive placements.

The agency’s early childhood center, Thompson Child Development Center on North Davidson Street in Charlotte is five-star licensed and provides developmental and preventive programming for young children and their families through a variety of educational and therapeutic resources. The Early childhood outreach Department supports and mentors close to 100 early childhood centers in Mecklenburg, Union and Cabarrus counties in North Carolina and Chesterfield County in South Carolina. All Thompson programs are nationally accredited. Both of these programs will be housed at Thompson’s new Early Childhood Services building, currently under construction at the corner of West Blvd. and Romare Bearden Dr.

For more information, go to [www.thompsoncff.org](http://www.thompsoncff.org), or call Ginny Amendum at 704.644.4348.

### **About The Family Center**

Respected for the past 30 years as one of Charlotte's child abuse prevention agencies, The Family Center is one of the region's leading providers of therapeutic, educational and preventative services to children and families. Programs include school-based intervention work, outpatient therapies, family education, and community case management. The Family Center operates a \$3.5 million budget and employs approximately 50 staff. The Family Center operates a services building on Seventh St. and a camp facility, Tree Tops, in Lancaster County, S.C. Serving the greater Charlotte area, the agency strengthens families, educates communities and prevents child abuse so that all children are valued, nurtured and kept safe.