



SAFY launches Empowering Families program in South Carolina

(GREENVILLE, South Carolina) — Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth (SAFY) of South Carolina has launched its Empowering Families program in South Carolina. The program is the result of a five year, \$1.9 million annual contract with the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS), allowing the organization to coordinate and provide Family Strengthening and Case Management services to more than 1,800 families annually in the Greenville region.

Empowering Families is the result of a systematic and comprehensive review of South Carolina’s Child Welfare Services program, which identified the need to establish partnerships with community based organizations that strengthen family supports. SAFY’s best practice standards rooted in culturally-based values are implemented with the goal of ensuring safe and nurturing families for all the children and youth of South Carolina. Services began January 17, 2012.

In its role as the Lead Coordinating Agency for the project, SAFY ensures cohesion among participating community agencies and implements decisions involving the management and delivery of services. The collaboration highlights SAFY’s broad Continuum of Care, and bolsters the organization’s reputation as a national provider of diverse child and family services.

“SAFY provides and coordinates services to meet the culturally diverse needs of every youth and family we serve,” says Richard Nedelkoff, Chief Executive Officer for SAFY. “We are working with other established social service agencies within the community to increase the protective factors that safely keep families together.”

The collaboration between SAFY and the DSS is the first of its kind in South Carolina, enhancing the social safety net for families and children through community support systems that reduce the risk of abuse or neglect. Empowering Families offers short-term supportive Family Strengthening Services (FSS) and Voluntary Case Management Services (VCM) designed to enable children to reside in their home safely. Utilizing a strength-based approach, the program focuses on positive aspects every family and community possess.

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