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## **Boys & Girls Town of Missouri and Edgewood Children's Center Combine Agencies to Expand Services to Children and Families**

*Combining operations will facilitate access to services for children and families, enhance use of state funds and donor support by creating efficiencies and encouraging service innovation*

St. Louis (May 27, 2009) – Citing the need to innovatively meet increasing demand for services for children and families, the independent boards of directors of Boys & Girls Town of Missouri and Edgewood Children's Center have both approved a proposed merger of agency operations presented to each board this afternoon. The merger offers significant benefits to children and families needing services as well as those providing funds to the agencies.

It will create a new parent organization under which a family of agencies, including Boys & Girls Town and Edgewood, will continue to serve children and families. The new parent organization will combine operations, creating efficiencies that will make more resources available to serving children and families.

A combined agency will enable children and families to more easily access different services within the same organization and ease the transition from one service to another. It will also help referral sources save time and effort in searching for the best resource agency for the children and families they serve.

Joining the talent and expertise of the two agencies is designed to create a culture of innovation that will work to enhance best practices throughout the industry and craft new forms of service delivery throughout the country.

“It is a win-win-win for children and families, donors and funders, and our communities,” said Vince Hillyer, president of Boys & Girls Town. “We can address the specific needs of children and families within a single entity with a greater variety of services. Donors will experience an even higher return on their donations from a combined, more efficient organization. Funders’ support will be strengthened because providing a continuum of services within the same organization will facilitate child or family transitions between programs.”

“We look forward to officially joining forces so we can combine our expertise for the betterment of children and families in Missouri and throughout the country,” said Wayne Crull, Edgewood president and CEO. “As Edgewood has done for 175 years and Boys & Girls Town for 60 years, we will keep children and families at the heart of everything we do long into the future.”

Combined agency expected to begin operations September 1.

A negotiating committee comprised of selected members from each agency board has been formed and will draft a Plan of Merger. The goal is for the Plan of Merger to be presented to the respective agency boards for final approval hopefully by the end of July. The target date for beginning operations as a combined entity is September 1.

Hillyer will serve as chief executive officer of the new agency. Crull will serve as chief operating officer.

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