

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina Becomes Nationally Accredited
by the Council on Accreditation**

Lake Waccamaw, NC—November 30, 2011—Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina, Inc. (B&GH), a non-profit organization offering in-home and out-of-home placements for vulnerable children, announces today that it has been awarded national accreditation by the Council on Accreditation (COA). COA is an international, independent, not-for-profit, child- and family-service and behavioral healthcare accrediting organization.

Boys and Girls Homes has had EAGLE Accreditation for many years. EAGLE accreditation (Educational Assessment Guidelines Leading Towards Excellence) is also a best practice approach to working with children and families in need. “While we have served our children and families well with the standards of EAGLE, the COA accreditation raises the bar of service even higher and is the preferred accreditation by funders and placement agencies throughout the state of North Carolina and the nation,” says Gary Faircloth, president and CEO of Boys and Girls Homes.

COA currently accredits 47 different service areas and more than 125 types of programs. Among the service areas are substance abuse treatment, adult day care, services for the homeless, foster care and intercountry adoption.

“In our 57-year history, Boys and Girls Homes has always maintained high standards. We are delighted to have been recognized in this way. Receiving COA accreditation validates our advocacy efforts for children across the state,” says Faircloth. “Every 18 minutes a child in America is abused and 4 die as a result of abuse and neglect each day. Now that we are nationally accredited we can look forward to branching out and reaching at-risk youth wherever our services are needed.”

Although COA accredits the entire organization, the nearly two-year process began with identifying the 13 B&GH service areas. Seven committees were formed in order to prepare the necessary documentation. Committee members were charged with demonstrating the impact of the organization’s services in each area. Committees included: Ethical Practice, Governance and Financial Management Standards; Human Resources Standards; Performance Quality Improvement and Risk Prevention and Management Standards; Administrative and Service Environment Standards; Behavior Support and Management, Clients Rights, Training and Supervision Standards; Foster Care and Adoption Services Standards and Group Living Standards. All staff members were assigned to a committee as either a working member or educational member for informational purposes.

B&GH performed a self-study, which included about 200 documents, as a way to determine eligibility. The self-study was sent to the COA offices in New York on September 27. COA analysts determined B&GH was ready for a site visit by a peer review team which took place October 30-November 1.

“Promoting a culture of excellence in which best and evidence-based practices are upheld is what we are all about,” adds Faircloth.

Founded in 1977, COA is an independent, not-for-profit, international accreditor of the full continuum of community-based behavioral health care and human service organizations. Today, over 1,800 organizations—public and private—are either COA accredited or are in the process of seeking accreditation. These organizations serve over 7 million of our most vulnerable individuals each year!

Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina, Inc. has been helping children since 1954. Since then, nearly 5,000 children have benefited by the services of the not-for-profit, 501(c)3 agency. Its mission is to provide a comprehensive array of services for children and youth who have been removed from their homes due to abuse, neglect or other family dysfunction. B&GH offers adoption, family and therapeutic foster care as well as residential care on the campus at Lake Waccamaw, NC. The campus features a SACS-accredited middle and high school, vocational education, recreation facilities, farm, chapel and cottage life. Up to 180 vulnerable children are cared for through residential and community-based services at any given time. To learn more about B&GH, visit www.boysandgirlshomes.org.

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