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PRESS RELEASE

Livingston County Catholic Charities Receives Reaccreditation

Livingston County Catholic Charities (LCCC) has achieved national accreditation through the New York-based Council on Accreditation (COA) after a rigorous reaccreditation process. LCCC has been accredited since 1997 and providing professional services to county residents since 1985.

LCCC provides the following services to all regardless of national origin, age, religion, sex, disability and financial ability:

- Mental Health Counseling
- Substance Abuse Counseling, Case Management and Prevention
- Prevention of Elder Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation
- Be Our Guest Adult Day – a day program for persons with dementia and other memory related diseases
- Foster Care and Adoption Services
- Special Ministries – providing recreational, faith-based and educational programs for adults with disabilities
- Senior Outreach Services: Volunteer Caregiver Program and Community Liaison (connecting to local, state and federal resources & services)
- Parish Ministry

Organizations pursue accreditation to demonstrate the implementation of best practice standards in the field of human services. COA evaluated all aspects of LCCC's programs, services, management, and administration.

COA accreditation is an objective, independent, and reliable validation of an agency's performance. The COA accreditation process involves a detailed review and analysis of an organization's administration, management, and service delivery functions against international standards of best practice. The standards driving accreditation ensure that services are well-coordinated, culturally competent, evidence-based, outcomes-oriented, and provided by a skilled and supported workforce. COA accreditation demonstrates accountability in the management of resources, sets standardized best practice thresholds for service and administration, and increases organizational capacity and accountability by creating a framework for ongoing quality improvement.

To achieve COA reaccreditation, LCCC first provided written evidence of compliance with the COA standards. Thereafter, a group of specially trained volunteer Peer Reviewers confirmed adherence to these standards during a series of on-site interviews with trustees, staff and clients.

Based on their findings, COA's volunteer-based Accreditation Commission voted that LCCC had successfully met the criteria for reaccreditation.

Mark Robinson, Executive Director of LCCC, expressed "For our agency, accreditation involves the full organization, Coworkers and Board Members, along with input from our community partners and our clientele. We believe that this comprehensive process enhances service delivery, outcomes, transparency and accountability."

An endorsement of COA and the value of its accreditation process is reflected in it being named by the US State Department as the sole national independent accrediting body under the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption to accredit intercountry adoption service providers. In addition, COA is the only national accreditor designated by the U.S. Department of Defense to develop accreditation standards and processes for human service programs provided to military personnel and their families.

Founded in 1977, COA is an independent, not-for-profit accreditor of the full continuum of community-based behavioral health care and social service organizations in the United States and Canada. Over 2,000 organizations — voluntary, public, and proprietary; local and statewide; large and small — have either successfully achieved COA accreditation or are currently engaged in the process. Presently, COA has a total of 47 service standards that are applicable to over 125 different types of programs. To learn more about COA, please visit www.coanet.org.