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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kids Hope United names new director for program aimed at meth-affected families

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (Feb. 27, 2008)—Kids Hope United has named Shannon Stokes as the new director of programs for its recently launched project, Circle of Hope, which will offer services to families affected by methamphetamine abuse in southwest Missouri.

As director of programs, Stokes will be responsible for the overall leadership management, and organizational development of programs and services of the project. She will develop, execute and evaluate the activities of the programs and services; build alliances and partnerships with the community; supervise senior supervisors and administrative staff; and prepare required reports. She will also oversee team development, evaluation and advocacy as well as ensure compliance with all program contracts and policies.

Stokes previously served as a senior research coordinator for the University of Missouri – Columbia’s College of Education, where she designed and conducted program evaluations for state agencies and community-based organizations. She also was a research analyst for eight years at the Institute of Public Policy at the University of Missouri – Columbia, where she was responsible for program evaluations and data analysis. She is also the author of several articles, conference papers and technical reports.

Stokes earned her Bachelor of Arts in political science in 1996 and her Master of Public Administration in 1999 from the University of Missouri – Columbia.

Circle of Hope services to families will focus on using intensive in-home services to build protection for children from within their families. Work will include the development of partnerships at both the county and state levels so that community resources can be effectively used to stabilize these families. The project will target nine counties in the southwest corner of the state (Jasper, Newton, McDonald, Lawrence, Barry, Greene, Christian, Taney and Stone). These counties have high numbers of children in care due to family methamphetamine abuse.



Kids Hope United will collaborate with the Missouri Department of Social Services/Children's Division, the Missouri Department of Mental Health/Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, and the Missouri Institute of Mental Health in providing and supporting services to children and families. In addition, Kids Hope United will be working with the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association and other state and community partners to strengthen interagency collaboration and integration of programs and services through the creation of a statewide Missouri Alliance for Drug Endangered Children.

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About Kids Hope United

Kids Hope United is a private human service organization dedicated to protecting children and strengthening families. Kids Hope United offers a diverse array of prevention, intervention and community-based programs. Kids Hope United also specializes in child welfare system management, reform, consultation and training. With principal offices in Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri and Florida, Kids Hope United serves more than 15,000 children and their families across the country each year. For more information, visit www.kidshopeunited.org.

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