



# WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE

**For Immediate Release:**

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**Philadelphia Ranks Women's Christian Alliance as the Number 1 Foster Care Organization in the City.**

Philadelphia, PA – March 29, 2011 -- Women's Christian Alliance (WCA), a non-sectarian nonprofit child welfare and community services organization located in North Central Philadelphia was recently ranked as the 2010 #1 foster care organization in Philadelphia. The Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS). This ranking is in comparison to 23 other provider organizations.

DHS ranks the provider organizations from one to 24, using 4 domains to assess the performances of the Performance Based Contract (PBC) providers. The domains used are as follows: 1) three-year permanency outcome record; 2) Fiscal year annual evaluation score; 3) referral acceptance rate; and 4) success in maintaining least restrictive level of care. The final ranking was obtained by first scoring the provider on each domain and then combining scores across the domains, with a double weight placed on permanency as our highest goal and includes some instances where the providers were tied and receive the same ranking number.

The ranking is intended only to describe the PBC providers' current performance relative to one another to foster awareness and collaboration in promoting even more positive outcomes.

The DHS representative notes, “we (DHS) are continuing to explore additional ways to measure provider performance that will give us (DHS) an increasingly comprehensive way of viewing child and family outcomes associated with services. We remain confident that all of our children are receiving the best possible service while in your care.

WCA's foster care division is headed by Ann Myers, a 21 year veteran of Women's Christian Alliance. Myers was assigned to head WCA's foster care division in 2008. At that time the division was experiencing some challenges. Myers is proud of the team she leads and attributes this success to, "the Case Managers and Supervisors' dedication and commitment to provide quality services while ensuring the safety and well-being of children." Presently, WCA delivers approximately 10% of Philadelphia's Permanencies in recent years, 3 times the average placement rate citywide.

Foster Care provides a temporary, safe, stable and nurturing family life experience for a child when their family is in crisis, and is unable to provide adequate care. Foster care is based on the belief that a family is the most beneficial and desirable environment for the healthy growth and development of a child. To successfully provide foster care services staff must work with the triad, which includes the child, foster/kinship parent and the natural family. The DHS worker is also an integral part of the team. The foster/kin parent is crucial to the success of placement. It is our expectation that the foster/kin parent will support both the physical and emotional needs of the children in their home

Additionally, WCA has maintained accreditation with the Council of Accreditation (COA) since 1977, due to WCA's focus on excellence and exceptional service to individuals, children, families and the community. WCA is also a pioneer for the National Freedom School Network, which was established in the mid-1990s.

WCA was founded in 1919 by Dr. Melissa Evelyn Thompson Coppin, the 10<sup>th</sup> African-American female physician in the United States. Evelyn Jones Busby, Chief Executive Officer for WCA notes that, "Today the individuals and teams that make up the WCA family not only continue Dr. Coppin's motto "From Possibility to Reality," but share the vision to influence and change lives and the future by assuring the normal growth and development of children, and the stability of their families."

*WCA is a non-sectarian nonprofit organization located in the heart of North Central Philadelphia that began as a safe haven for African-American families migrating from the rural south. Throughout the 20th century, WCA has expanded its programs to meet the emerging needs of children and disadvantaged families by providing high-quality progressive services with care, competence, compassion and effective communication.*