



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Home of the Innocents Launches First Multisystemic Therapy Services in Kentucky**  
***Supporting Kentucky's Intention to be one of the first states to implement the Family First Prevention Services Act, new services begin in January 2020***

**Louisville, Ky. (December 16, 2019)** – Home of the Innocents has received funding to open Kentucky's first Multisystemic Therapy for Family & Community Preservation Program (MST). Starting the MST program supports the state's intention to be one of the first in the nation to implement the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA).

The Home's new MST program is made possible through partnerships with the Kentucky Department of Community Based Services and the Department of Medicaid Services. Funding for program startup has been provided by the James Graham Brown Foundation, the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence, and Molina Healthcare.

"We deeply appreciate our partnerships with the Department of Community Based Services and the Department of Medicaid Services to make this program happen. We also acknowledge and appreciate funders like the James Graham Brown Foundation and the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence. Their continued support for our organization ensures we can provide these much-needed services to children and families in our community," said Paul Robinson, President & CEO. "We are thrilled to be a part of the process to implement the Family First Prevention Services Act in Kentucky."

Cabinet for Health and Family Services Acting Secretary Eric Friedlander said the in-home trauma therapy is youth-focused.

"We are proud to have a strong and lasting partnership with Home of the Innocents, and this new effort continues that," Friedlander said. "This collaboration provides intensive services to children and parents in their homes to address specific risk factors and prevent further trauma."

This holistic approach will benefit entire families, and our whole community. It's one facet of Kentucky's implementation of the Family First Act with our key partners and the families we serve."

MST is an evidence-based model that targets youth ages 12-17 who exhibit chronic or serious anti-social behavior and are at high risk of out-of-home placement. MST utilizes a home-based model of service delivery. Therapy includes educating families on the effects of trauma and help them heal from past trauma, preventing trauma from manifesting into one or more psychiatric disorders, a child's removal from the home, or detainment in a juvenile justice facility.

The multisystemic approach focuses on the entire ecology of youths' lives, addressing multiple factors that contribute to antisocial behavior, including factors at the family, school, and community levels. MST typically targets chronic, violent, and substance abusing youth, ages 12-17, at high risk of (or returning from) out-of-home placement.

### **About Home of the Innocents**

Home of the Innocents enriches the lives of children and families with hope, health, and happiness. Serving nearly 13,000 children and their families last year, programs include a safe haven for at-risk children, clinical treatment services, crisis and intervention services, therapeutic loving foster care and adoption services, a pediatric convalescent center for children who are medically complex or terminally ill, and an integrated pediatric medical center, Open Arms Children's Health.

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[CUTLINE: *MST Press.jpeg*: Home of the Innocents Executive Vice President of Clinical Operations Kelly Pullen, Cabinet for Health and Family Services Acting Secretary Eric Friedlander, and Home of the Innocents President & CEO Paul Robinson spoke about the organization's new services.]

For more information about the MST program or Home of the Innocents, contact Meredith Pack at [mpack@homeoftheinnocents.org](mailto:mpack@homeoftheinnocents.org) or 502.596.1023.