

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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METROCARE SERVICES
Local Employer Receives Award for Compassion

DALLAS, TEXAS, April 2008 – Metrocare Services of Dallas has been honored by The Compassionate Friends as a recipient of the 2008 Compassionate Employer Recognition.

The Compassionate Friends is the world's largest self-help bereavement organization, providing support and friendship to families that have experienced the death of a child. This year, 96 employers across the country are receiving Compassionate Employer Recognition for going above and beyond the normal policies of most companies in helping an employee after the death of a child.

“ Metrocare Services works continually to provide a vast array of benefits for our employees. When employees experienced a family tragedy last year, it was gratifying to be in position to be in a position to offer valuable assistance. We never dreamed we would win an award for our efforts. We were just doing our job.” Sandy Melton Stephens, Director of Philanthropy

“ Metrocare's Human Resources team is honored to have received this distinction. The Compassionate Award recognizes the importance of what we do every day for our employees”. Stephen Miller, Human Resources Director).

Criteria for Compassionate Employer Recognition include, but are not limited to:

1. Allowing additional time off without loss of benefits.
2. Allowing flexible work schedules and assignments.
3. Allowing leeway in job performance standards.
4. Fostering an environment of mutual support among coworkers.
5. Providing professional grief counseling, human resources support, or information regarding self-help bereavement organizations.
6. Other policies and practices that go beyond what is normal in the community.

“When a child dies, families begin a grief journey that follows them through all parts of their lives,” said Patricia Loder, Executive Director of the Compassionate Friends. “Today the need for support in the workplace so often takes a back seat to the demands of the marketplace. We are pleased that Metrocare Services is among those 96 employers, large and small, public and private, that are being recognized for providing the compassion and understanding that is vitally needed in the bereavement process.”

This is the eighth year for recognition of employers by The Compassionate Friends.

The Compassionate Friends is an international support organization with 600 chapters in the United States. There are TCF organizations in at least 30 countries around the world. To contact The Compassionate Friends/USA, which has chapters in all 50 states plus Washington

.C. and Puerto Rico, call toll-free 877-969-0010 or visit TCF/s national website at www.compassionatefriends.org.

(Contact information about local TCF chapter if applicable – call 877-969-0010 for meeting information)

Metrocare Services is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) community mental health and mental retardation center serving the residents of Dallas County. Metrocare provides a comprehensive array of services and support for people living with the challenges of mental illness and /or developmental disabilities. Although established in 1967 as the Dallas County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority, the center remains the authority for Mental Retardation services in Dallas County. Metrocare currently provides services to 23,000 people annually. The mission of Metrocare is to serve our neighbors with developmental or mental health challenges by helping them find lives that are meaningful and satisfying. More information of Metrocare Services can be found in the website www.metrocareservices.org or calling 214-743-1200.