



Contact: Katie St. Clair
Phone: 214-743-1273
Email: katie.st.clair@metrocareservices.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

METROCARE EXTENDS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE TO HOMELESS WITH FAMILY PLACE & DALLAS LIFE

This month, Metrocare Services began on-site mental health services at both The Family Place and Dallas LIFE.

The Family Place is in the process of finishing a new medical clinic for its clients, and Metrocare is pleased to begin offering psychiatric assessment, diagnosis, and medication therapy, as part of that clinic. Each year, The Family Place serves more than 14,000 people affected by family violence, including nearly 10,000 children. Services include a shelter, transitional housing and child development center -- all of which have operated at capacity since their inception.

Metrocare provides similar services to Dallas LIFE Foundation. Dallas LIFE has been serving the homeless food, clothing, shelter, education and long-term rehabilitation programs founded on spiritual principals for over fifty years. Each night, as many as 500 people depend upon Dallas LIFE for shelter. These new clinic sites extend Metrocare's long commitment of service to those who endure both homelessness and mental illness. In 2009, Metrocare served over 2,000 people who were homeless and struggling with a mental illness. Our dedicated staff served them at The Salvation Army, Austin Street Shelter, The Stewpot, Turtle Creek Manor, Homeward Bound and The Bridge -- and we sought them out under bridges and on the streets.

Metrocare has 30 clinicians and support staff who are dedicated to the care of the homeless, including 17 staff members officing at The Bridge. This team of clinicians, composed of Advanced Nurse Practitioners, Qualified Mental Health Professionals and Licensed Counselors in Social Work, are lead by two Board Certified Psychiatrists with over 15 years of experience in work with the homeless. Collectively, they provided over 6000 physician visits as well as provided needed medications. In addition, they provided nearly 10,000 other social service visits: an average of eight services to every person served.

The services offered by Metrocare make a difference in the lives of those we encounter. Through the transitional and permanent supported housing programs operated and managed by Metrocare, we shelter over 300 people. Over 90% of the people housed last year are still committed to their recovery through a Metrocare housing program. Among those that we did not take into our own programs, we helped almost 50% find housing elsewhere.

Through its Center of Excellence, Metrocare is committed to using evidence-based practices in the care of the homeless. And, we are committed to demonstrating the efficacy of our programs. That is why, thanks to an exciting new initiative with the W.W. Caruth, Jr. Foundation of Communities Foundation, Metrocare is partnering with the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in an outcomes study of our newest transitional housing program.

Metrocare's history of service to people who endure both homelessness and a mental health challenge is a long and storied one. Through federal and state service and program grants, we have been seeking out the homeless on the streets, under bridges and in shelters for almost 35 years. Through housing grants we have been getting people off the streets for almost 30 years. Our clinical staff and leadership have extensive years of combined services to the homeless with mental illness. Metrocare Services is not only dedicated to caring for those individuals in Dallas County who find themselves homeless and struggling with a mental illness, but continues to work diligently to raise the bar of service to these individuals in our own center and through collaborations and partnerships with others working toward this common goal.

###

For more information, please contact Katie St. Clair at 214-743-1273 or email katie.st.clair@metrocareservices.org.
Information about Metrocare can also be found at www.metrocareservices.org.