



For Immediate Release

Contact: Becky Wrisley
Director of Marketing & Communications
336-274-1538

Agencies Unite To Strengthen Services for Children in Crisis

January 26, 2011 - Greensboro, N.C. – Children’s Home Society of North Carolina (CHS) of Greensboro, and Lifegains, Inc. of Morganton are merging into one agency effective February 1, 2011. Through this merger, CHS will have expanded foster care services across the state and the ability to serve greater numbers of children and families in crisis.

Currently, both agencies are respected foster care providers with varied, yet complimentary, programs and services. CHS brings expertise in foster care, adoption, and extensive family support interventions on a statewide level. Lifegains has a strong reputation for their commitment to children and families with a focus in serving children in the Asheville, Morganton, Greenville, and the Piedmont Triad area. Lifegains also brings strong training capabilities for families and staff serving children in the child welfare system.

“We believe this merger with Lifegains augments our capacity to provide care for children in crisis through loving foster homes,” said Ken Tutterow, CEO and President of CHS. “This partnership enhances one of the most comprehensive and seamless array of child and family services in the state. Through CHS, families can access a wealth of child welfare services - parenting education, family preservation, teen pregnancy prevention, foster care, adoption, and family support services - all from one agency.”

As a COA (Council on Accreditation) accredited agency, providing high quality training to staff and clients is of critical importance. The merger with Lifegains will strengthen the training capacity of CHS and help ensure that staff are providing the highest quality services possible for clients in need.

“Our parents are the heart of the Lifegains program,” said Greg Mastin, Executive Director of Lifegains. “We are excited to have the opportunity to expand the impact of our services by merging with Children’s Home Society.”

Thousands of children enter the foster care system each year in North Carolina. Last year alone, there were nearly 9,000 children living in foster care in our state. These children represent every age, background, and ethnicity. Children come into foster care for a variety of reasons including abuse, neglect, and issues in the family such as illness, drug/alcohol addiction, and homelessness.

Foster parents play a very special role in helping these children. They are recruited, trained, and licensed to care for abused or neglected children, while birth families work with DSS to resolve family issues.

For more information on becoming a foster parent, please visit www.chsnc.org or call 1-800-632-1400.

###

Since 1981, Lifegains, Inc. has provided families for children in need, as well as for adults with developmental disabilities. Based in Morganton, North Carolina, Lifegains has operated as a private, not-for-profit corporation licensed by the Department of Health and Human Services to provide specialized foster care. For more information, please visit www.lifegains.org.

CHS is a statewide, non-profit, non-sectarian private agency serving children and families through adoption, foster care, family preservation and parenting education programs for over 100 years. CHS is licensed by the NC Department of Health and Human Services - Division of Social Services. CHS is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children. CHS is a founding member of the Child Welfare League of America, Children and Family Services Association of North Carolina, and Children's Home Society of America. For more information on CHS, please visit www.chsnc.org.