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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**RIVER BRIDGE REGIONAL CENTER EARNS RE-ACCREDITATION
FROM NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE**

National Children's Alliance recognizes River Bridge Regional Center for its ongoing delivery of high quality and effective services to child abuse victims through accreditation

RIVER BRIDGE REGIONAL CENTER (November 2, 2020) – RIVER BRIDGE REGIONAL CENTER has been awarded re-accreditation by National Children's Alliance following an extensive application and site review process. As the accrediting agency for Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC) across the country, National Children's Alliance awards various levels of accreditation and membership to centers responding to allegations of child abuse in ways that are effective and efficient, and put the needs of child victims of abuse first. Accreditation is the highest level of membership with National Children's Alliance and denotes excellence in service provision.

Accredited CACs must undergo a re-accreditation process every five years to ensure that best practices are continually being applied. With accreditation standards being updated in 2010, re-accreditation this year reflects River Bridge Regional Center commitment to providing evidence-based methods practice.

Founded in 2007, River Bridge Regional Center (RBRC) is a Child Advocacy Center (CAC), a child-friendly facility in which law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, mental health providers, medical providers, and family advocates work together as a multi-disciplinary team (MDT) to investigate abuse, help children heal, and hold offenders accountable. RBRC is the only CAC between Grand Junction and Summit County to provide services for abused children in Garfield, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, and Eagle County. Since its inception in 2007, River Bridge has provided services to 2,167 child abuse victims and their non-offending family members. Each year we provide roughly 240 forensic interviews with each child being referred for medical and mental health services. As an Accredited Member of National Children's Alliance, River Bridge Regional Center is dedicated to providing comprehensive, coordinated and compassionate services to victims of child abuse.

National Children's Alliance awards Accredited Membership based on a CAC's compliance with 10 national standards of accreditation to ensure effective, efficient and consistent delivery of services to child abuse victims. Accredited Members must utilize a functioning and effective Multidisciplinary Team approach to work collaboratively in child abuse investigation, prosecution, and treatment. National Children's Alliance also considers standards regarding a center's cultural competency and diversity, forensic interviews, victim support and advocacy, medical evaluation, therapeutic intervention, and child focused setting.

"Being an accredited member of the National Children's Alliance holds our organization to the highest standard. Our community and our funders expect this

*level of service and our team is proud to have met the requirements once again.” said
Blythe Chapman, Executive Director of River Bridge Regional Center.*

“River Bridge Regional Center is to be commended for its continued commitment to effectively serve victims of child abuse. As the national association and accrediting body for Children’s Advocacy Centers across the country, our goal is to ensure that every victim of child abuse has access to high quality services that result from professional collaboration. By requiring Accredited Centers to undergo re-Accreditation every five years, we ensure that evidence-based practices are being implemented and the highest quality of service is being provided,” remarked Teresa Huizar, Executive Director of National Children’s Alliance.

For more information about River Bridge Regional Center, visit www.riverbridgerc.org.

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River Bridge Regional Center provides collaborative services to child abuse victims, their families and the community in a supportive environment through a child centered approach. In 2007, RBRC initially offered services for child abuse victims and non-offending family members in Garfield County and subsequently expanded to serve Eagle, Pitkin, and Rio Blanco counties. Referrals to the organization are provided from law enforcement and human service agencies. RBRC's physical location allows for a coordinated team to meet on-site. This 'one stop' approach provides a neutral, child-friendly environment to provide crucial services to children (ages 0 to 18) and non-offending family members.

In 2012, the Roaring Fork Valley lost its SANE (Sexual Assault Nurses Examination) program, leaving the community vulnerable and victims of sexual assault having to travel to Grand Junction or Frisco to receive services. In 2016, a small group of dedicated professionals came together to reinstate the services that assault victims in our community require, forming Mountain West SANE Alliance (MWSA). On January 1, 2018, MWSA program, including the financials, administration and program management moved under the umbrella of the established RBRC agency. The Mountain West SANE Alliance program provides assault victims trauma informed, compassionate, culturally sensitive, and comprehensive forensic evaluation and treatment by trained, professional nurse experts.

National Children’s Alliance is the national association and accrediting body for the over 750 children’s advocacy centers serving each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Dedicated to helping local communities respond to allegations of child abuse in ways that are effective and efficient, and put the needs of child victims of abuse first, National Children’s Alliance provides support and advocacy to its accredited membership, as well as numerous developing centers, multidisciplinary teams and child abuse professionals around the country, and the world. As the national authority on multidisciplinary approaches to supporting child victims of abuse, the purpose of National Children’s Alliance is to empower local communities to provide comprehensive, coordinated and compassionate services to victims of child abuse. Founded in 1998, National Children’s Alliance provides accreditation opportunities, financial assistance, training, technical assistance, research and education to communities, child abuse professionals and children’s advocacy centers throughout the United States in support of child abuse intervention, advocacy and prevention. www.nationalchildrensalliance.org