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For more information please contact:

Diane M. Bacha, Director of Marketing and Communications

414.273.0533 x22, dianeb@publicallies.org

www.publicallies.org

Family Services of Metro Orlando Brings Public Allies to Central Florida

Orlando (July 20, 2010) – Family Services of Metro Orlando is partnering with a national nonprofit to deploy 25 young people throughout the community in paid, 10-month apprenticeships at local nonprofits. Public Allies, an AmeriCorps program for young leaders who are interested in strengthening their community, will launch in Orlando in October.

The apprentices, or Allies, will be responsible for fulfilling specific goals at the nonprofits they are assigned to. In addition, they will pursue team service projects designed to positively impact the community. During their time as Public Allies, they also participate in retreats and workshops to develop their personal and leadership skills.

“Through our new partnership with Public Allies, we can begin to develop the next generation of nonprofit leadership for our region,” said Greg Kurth, CEO of Family Services of Metro Orlando. “This is the next step in the evolution of Central Florida’s nonprofit sector.”

Applications from Central Florida nonprofits and government entities wishing to host Allies are being accepted now. Contact Karla Radka at 407.398.7975 to request an application.

Paul Schmitz, President and CEO of Public Allies, said that the expansion brings the number of Public Allies communities to 21. In addition to Orlando, Public Allies is expanding to Minneapolis-St. Paul

and Washington, D.C. this fall. The organization will eventually engage 656 young leaders in their communities during the 2010-11 program year.

Public Allies is a national nonprofit based in Milwaukee, Wis. It was founded in 1992 by a diverse group of young nonprofit leaders who believed that there were many energetic, talented young people who wanted to tackle community and national issues, but who needed support in learning how. The program prepares Allies for careers in nonprofit and public-sector work. A recently completed survey of Public Allies alumni revealed that 76% remain in those sectors, and 67% remain in the communities where they did their original Ally work.

“Family Services of Metro Orlando will be a terrific partner,” said Schmitz. “We share each other’s values of helping find a community’s assets and leveraging them for long-lasting change. And of course, young adults with a passion to make a difference are among Orlando’s most important assets.”

About Public Allies

Public Allies’ mission is to advance new leadership to strengthen communities, nonprofits, and civic participation. We are motivated by our conviction that everyone can lead, and that lasting social change results when citizens of all backgrounds step up, take responsibility, and work together. Public Allies is an AmeriCorps sponsored programs based in Milwaukee, WI, and supporting 21 sites across the country. Since its inception in 1992, it has graduated more than 3,000 Allies from community-based programs designed to expand the capacity of local nonprofits and teach young adults leadership skills. For information about our Allies Program, alumni activities, training programs, and Turning the Tide fellowships, please visit www.publicallies.org or contact our National Office.

About Family Services of Metro Orlando

Family Services of Metro Orlando is a private, non-profit organization responsible for the management of services to vulnerable children and families in Orange and Osceola counties. Through its innovative programs and extensive community partnerships, the organization provides oversight of child protection services, such as prevention, intervention, foster care, adoption and independent living services. Family Services maximizes public and private resources and coordinates community partnerships toward holistic services for children and families. For more information, visit www.fsmetroorlando.org or call 877.6.MY.KIDS (877.669.5437).

Contact information

Public Allies National Office
611 North Broadway Suite 415
Milwaukee WI 53202
414.273.0533
www.publicallies.org

Family Services of Metro Orlando
2600 Technology Drive, Suite 250
Orlando, FL 32804

407.398.7975

www.fsmetroorlando.org