

Elks Aidmore, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

Conyers, GA --- (Feb. 3 2012) --- Elks Aidmore, announced that its contract with the Georgia Department of Human Services to provide Therapeutic Foster Care is finalized. The agency will begin immediately to recruit and train families to provide therapeutic foster care. The new services will be initially provided in the Conyers, Covington and Athens triangle, with an expansion into the Valdosta area in late spring. "This is an exciting time for Elks Aidmore and we are grateful that the Georgia Department of Human Services has allowed us to expand our services to fill an unmet need. Since 2007, half of Georgia's providers have closed their doors and we are fully committed to providing services and filling some of the voids created by the closures," said Elks Aidmore's CEO Abe Wilkinson.

Just three years ago, Elks Aidmore's board made a major decision to reduce services, while researching foster care needs in Georgia. The outcome of the reorganization was to expand services beyond residential care for young ladies. This decision was made to meet the need generated by the country's economic recession and the growing population of youth and families that need specialized services. The vision was the beginning of Elks Aidmore's expansion, which included creating a transitional plan, hiring staff, and completing state applications to expand in target service areas. In less than three years, Elks Aidmore has received approvals in all expansion areas and now provides Independent and Transitional Living programs; operates boys and girls cottages in the residential program; and has initiated Community-Based Alternatives for Youth (CBAY) and Therapeutic Family Foster Care services.

"We are celebrating our programmatic successes, but fundraising remains a challenge- each year we are tasked with raising funds to support extra programmatic services and 50% of our operating expenses. We are deeply appreciative of the support of the Georgia Elks and the local community. We look forward to working closer with local businesses and Conyers-based national corporations, in exploring philanthropic and volunteer partnerships," said Dawn Butler, Director of Development.

ABOUT ELKS AIDMORE, INC.

Elks Aidmore has provided services to Georgia's at-risk youth, like foster children, for over 75 years through a wide range of programs. Starting in the 1930's, we provided services through our clinics to youth who suffered from physical disabilities, this work led to the creation of the Elks Aidmore Hospital in Atlanta, which served the same population until 1976. In 1977, we changed our mission to focus on foster care.

Elks Aidmore delivers its mission through a wide range of programs that focus on creating success for at-risk teenagers and young adults who are in foster care.

For more information visit: www.elksaidmore.com or www.elksaidmoremusicfestival.com.