

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Preferred Family Healthcare honored at White House reception.

**Date: February 11, 2008**

Preferred Family Healthcare was honored on Thursday February 7<sup>th</sup>, attending a small reception in the East room of the White House with President Bush and First Lady Laura Bush, recognizing exemplary helping agencies from across the nation that embrace the mission of First Lady Laura Bush's "Helping America's Youth" initiative.

"I appreciate very much, those of you who are committed to helping our country by saving souls, and by giving people hope" remarked President Bush in his opening comments.

During the ceremony, first lady Laura Bush spoke about the strides that youth serving organizations have made against substance abuse and gang activity nationwide.

Michael Schwend, President and CEO of Preferred Family Healthcare commented "We are honored to be invited and recognized today by the President and First Lady. Helping all youth we serve reach their full potential is paramount to Preferred Family Healthcare's mission statement"

Preferred Family Healthcare, Inc. has been serving the needs of Missouri citizens since 1979, as a not-for profit agency providing quality mental health and substance abuse treatment services. "We have grown and developed methodically and consistent with our mission", said Schwend.

Mr. Schwend, along with Kasey Harlin (ARTC Project Coordinator – Achieving Recovery thru Creativity), and Jim Wallis, Vice President of Eastern Adolescent Services were honored to be ambassadors and represent the over 500 staff currently employed with Preferred Family Healthcare.

Currently Preferred Family Healthcare, Inc. provides mental health and substance abuse treatment services to both youth and adults throughout the State of Missouri as well as in San Antonio Texas.

Preferred Family Healthcare strives to provide a full continuum of care to our clients adult and adolescent. For more information go to our company website at [www.pfh.org](http://www.pfh.org).

Questions or comments can be answered by Jim Wallis at 314-322-5644 or [jwallis@pfh.org](mailto:jwallis@pfh.org)



**Picture #1: Standing in the East room of the White House with a painting of First Lady Pat Nixon in the background: From Left to Right: Jim Wallis, VP of Adolescent Services, Kasey Harlin – ARTC Project Coordinator, Michael Schwend, President and CEO of Preferred Family Healthcare**



**Picture #2 – Jim Wallis, Kasey Harlin, Mike Schwend, and Senator Claire McCaskill at Senate Building.**



**Picture #3 – President Bush signing an executive order – link attached below.**

Link to Executive Order signed:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2008/02/20080207-15.html>

Link to the official White House Press Release:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2008/02/20080207-14.html>