



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Anchorage Children's Home Receives \$5,000 grant from The St. Joe Community Foundation**

**PANAMA CITY BEACH, Fla** – Anchorage Children's Home has received a \$5,000 grant from the St. Joe Community Foundation to purchase bunk beds, mattresses, bedroom furniture and other household necessities for the Sibling Group Home for foster care children in our community. The home, which will be located in Panama City Beach, Fla., will be the first of its kind in the Florida panhandle.

Anchorage has partnered with Big Bend Community Based Care, the local leading child welfare agency in the 14<sup>th</sup> judicial circuit, to start a Sibling Group Home that will provide housing for up to eight children between the ages of 6 to 12 years old. The home is in the process of being licensed through the Department of Children & Families and anticipates a start-up date of mid November 2013.

Often siblings in foster care are separated because there is not an adequate placement for them to stay together. The new Sibling Group Home will enable siblings to stay together in a safe, home-like environment allowing their parents to visit and work on plans toward reunification. "There are currently over 100 siblings in our service area foster care unit that would benefit from this much needed program," says Steve Blumenthal, Executive Director for Anchorage Children's Home. "Community support is

key when starting a new program and we are very grateful to the St. Joe Community Foundation for their support in this endeavor.”

“Starting a new program is a huge undertaking and an expensive process,” says Brooke Bullard, Development Director for Anchorage Children’s Home. “We are in the licensing stage and the home has to be ‘move-in ready’ in order to pass the site visit. This grant provided by the St. Joe Community Foundation will allow us to purchase all the necessary beds and furniture to ensure we are ready to accept our first group of children.” “The St. Joe Community Foundation provides grants to non-profit agencies in Bay and Walton counties for the arts, education, healthcare and the environment,” says Janet Greeno, Executive Director for the Foundation. “The Foundation is honored to be able to contribute to the health and well-being of children in the Bay County area.”

Anchorage Children’s Home recently celebrated 30 years in Bay county serving over 40,000 children and families since its inception. Along with the Sibling Group Home, Anchorage also provides emergency shelter, transitional living, maternity transitional living, street outreach, family counseling and case management services to abused, neglected and homeless youth and their families. For more information please visit [www.anchoragechildrenshome.org](http://www.anchoragechildrenshome.org) or call Brooke Bullard at 850-763-7102.

Since its inception, the St. Joe Community Foundation (STJCF) has provided more than \$17 million in grants to improve the quality of life in the communities it serves. STJCF provides charitable grants toward the civic infrastructure of communities in Bay and Walton Counties. The Foundation’s primary focus is on strengthening education, improving healthcare, protecting the environment and supporting local cultural interests. These efforts help build healthy, caring long-lived communities. For more information , visit [www.stjcf.com](http://www.stjcf.com).