



Contact:
Rosalind Weiss
(321) 632-8610, ext. 203
rweiss@bacbrevard.com

January 31, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brevard Achievement Center Receives Highest Level Accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF International)
Only Brevard County-based health and human services provider to receive this designation since 1976

Rockledge, Fla. – Brevard Achievement Center (BAC) has again received a three-year accreditation, the highest level granted, from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF International). BAC is the only Brevard-based organization to have received this accreditation for 36 consecutive years.

This accreditation decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows the organization's substantial conformance to the CARF standards. An organization receiving a three-year accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process and has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during a three-day on-site visit that its programs and services are of the highest quality, measurable and accountable. Regarding BAC, CARF surveyors noted that the organization is "in a strong financial position; is well positioned in terms of its recognized leadership in product quality, timely delivery, prompt and accurate invoicing by the Florida Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (Florida ARF); and is a well-respected community partner.

"It was evident during our visit that staff are extremely dedicated to the enhancement of the quality of life of persons served," said Nancy Gale, CARF administrative surveyor. "Clients expressed that sentiment to us during our site visit and we definitely witnessed the staff's enthusiasm firsthand."

Gale, executive director of the Cariboo Chilcotin Child Development Centre Association in Williams Lake, British Columbia (Canada) was one of two surveyors who visited BAC. Mike Townsend, retired vice president of client services for Goodwill of the Heartland headquartered in Iowa City, Iowa was the other. CARF surveyors are selected by matching their program or

administrative expertise and relevant field experience with the service provider's unique requirements. The survey team conducts the survey and determines the service provider's conformance to all applicable standards on-site by observing services, interviewing persons served and other stakeholders, and reviewing documentation. Surveyors also provide consultation to the provider's personnel.

“We work very hard to maintain a high level of quality in each and every service we perform for the people we serve,” said Dayle Olson, president. “It is extremely gratifying to know that an organization as highly regarded as CARF International continually recognizes our efforts.”

CARF is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of the persons served. Founded in 1966 as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, and now known as CARF International, the accrediting body establishes consumer-focused standards to help organizations measure and improve the quality of their programs and services. For more information about the accreditation process or CARF International visit www.carf.org.

The Brevard Achievement Center (BAC) was established in 1968 by a group of parents and community members concerned about the lack of vocational services for persons with disabilities. Today its mission, to assist individuals with disabilities so they achieve vocational and social independence, is fulfilled by approximately 89 staff members throughout its headquarters in Rockledge, Fla., Titusville and Melbourne. The Center serves over 4,200 clients via 14 programs including Ability One which allows clients the chance to integrate into the work force at one of eight contracted federal employment sites in Florida and Puerto Rico. BAC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, nationally accredited agency recognized by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF International) and is a United Way partner. For more information, visit www.bacbrevard.com or call (321) 632-8610.

###