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NEWS RELEASE

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Lighthouse, Choctaw Nation Collaborate to Open Children's Urgent Recovery Center in Durant

DURANT, Okla. – In Oklahoma, more than 51,000 children (ages 6 to 17) experience serious emotional disturbances. About 30,000 children in the Sooner State with major depression do not receive treatment, highlighting a significant gap in mental health care services.

Lighthouse Behavioral Wellness Centers and Choctaw Nation have partnered to address this tremendous need. Powered by a SAMSHA federal grant received by Choctaw Nation, Lighthouse has opened a Children's Urgent Recovery Center (C-URC) in Durant, bolstering mental health and sub-stance abuse services for children.

The new C-URC, which opened its doors in October, provides a safe place where youth experiencing mental health and/or substance use crises can go with their family for treatment and support. This C-URC is open 24 hours a day seven days a week.

"We are immensely grateful to the Choctaw Nation for their overwhelming generosity," said Jessica Pfau, Lighthouse CEO. "There is a mental health crisis in our state and across our nation. We must recognize that this is a community issue. Partnerships and collaborations are vital. We are honored for the opportunity to work with Choctaw Nation to make this crisis center for children a reality."

The grant will significantly offset operational costs, helping fund a full staff of counselors, family support providers, registered nurses, and care coordinators. Chief Gary Batton of the Choctaw Nation explained the need to offer these invaluable services in Southern Oklahoma, keeping children in their communities and close to their support systems when in crisis.

"This grant reflects our commitment to supporting our community and ensuring that children have access to timely, supportive care without leaving all that is familiar to them," Batton said. "We are proud to partner with Lighthouse. We are proud to bring family-centered care to our community. We are proud of the life-changing work that will happen here in Southern Oklahoma."

The crisis center currently accommodates up to three youth and their families simultaneously, providing personalized, family-centered care in a comfortable environment. Each family will have a private, calming space for treatment. Lighthouse's expert staff will help evaluate and identify each client's need, provide immediate stabilization then coordinate the appropriate care.

"A Children's Urgent Recover Center allows us to intervene early, linking children and families to vital community resources," Pfau said. "This reduces the need for out-of-county residential crisis and provides support within our community."

The C-URC operates within the same facility as Lighthouse's outpatient clinic, located at 2425 W. University Boulevard in Durant. The C-URC entrance is on the northeast side of the building.

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About Lighthouse

Lighthouse Behavioral Wellness Centers is a non-profit organization. We are proud to be a Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC) and the designated Community Mental Health Center for nine counties in Southern Oklahoma. As a CCBHC, Lighthouse ensures access to comprehensive behavioral health services, which include, outpatient counseling, care coordination, addiction treatment, and 24/7 crisis services. Lighthouse serves anyone who requests care for mental health and substance use, regardless of their ability to pay, place of residence, or age. For more information about Lighthouse Behavioral Wellness Centers and their services, visit www.lighthouseok.com.

About The Choctaw Nation

The Choctaw Nation is the third-largest Indian Nation in the United States with over 225,000 tribal members and over 12,000 associates. This ancient people has an oral tradition dating back over 13,000 years. The first tribe over the Trail of Tears, its historic reservation boundaries are in the southeast corner of Oklahoma, covering 10,923 square miles. The Choctaw Nation's vision, "Living out the Choctaw Spirit of faith, family and culture," is evident as it continues to focus on providing opportunities for growth and prosperity. For more information about the Choctaw Nation, its culture, heritage and traditions, please go to www.choctawnation.com. For more information about the Choctaw Nation, visit www.choctawnation.com.

