



**For Immediate Release  
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## **RIVER OAK CENTER FOR CHILDREN RE-ACCREDITED BY JOINT COMMISSION**

SACRAMENTO, October 20, 2009 – As it did in 2003 and 2006, River Oak Center for Children has once again received the distinguished honor of the Golden Seal of Approval and accreditation from the Joint Commission. Joint Commission accreditation and certification is recognized nationwide as a symbol of quality that reflects an organization’s commitment to meeting certain performance standards. River Oak remains one of very few non-profit organizations in California not associated with a large hospital system to have received such recognition.

An independent, not-for-profit organization, The Joint Commission accredits and certifies more than 1,800 behavioral health care organizations in the United States. The accreditation process focuses on operational systems critical to the safety and quality of client care. To earn and maintain accreditation, an organization participates in an on-site survey by a Joint Commission team at least every three years. The objective of the survey is not only to evaluate the organization, but to provide education and guidance that will help staff continue to improve the organization’s performance.

“We are extremely pleased and honored to have received re-accreditation with the Joint Commission,” said Mary Hargrave, President and Chief Executive Officer of River Oak. “This recognition is reflective of River Oak’s commitment to providing only the best and most effective services to the vulnerable children, teens, and families we serve. It is also a great tribute to our staff members. Joint Commission accreditation is possible because of their dedication to meeting the Commission’s standards every day of the year.”

Since 1966, River Oak Center for Children ([www.riveroak.org](http://www.riveroak.org)) has been a safe place where low-income, ethnically diverse children and youth with emotional and behavioral challenges can heal, grow, and work to realize their dreams. Each year, River Oak helps close to 2,000 at-risk children and families through innovative and research-based mental health and social service programs that guide children to success by helping them build skills necessary to manage life’s challenges. On a daily basis, the agency’s early intervention and prevention, intensive community-based, and outpatient programs touch the lives of 900 children and their families at three sites across the Greater Sacramento area.

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