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Shelton School Readiness Pre School Program Earns National Accreditation

Derby CT, May 11, 2010 --- TEAM, Inc. announces the Shelton School Readiness Program, located at Trinity Lutheran Church, 183 Howe Avenue Shelton, operated by TEAM earned its first national accreditation. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is the nation's leading organization of early childhood professionals and represents the mark of quality in early childhood education.

NAEYC accreditation is designed to bring early childhood programs, families, communities and other groups together in an effort to improve the quality of children's learning experiences in early education settings.

"We are proud to have earned the mark of quality from NAEYC, and to be recognized for our commitment to reaching the highest professional standards," said David Morgan, TEAM Vice President of Early Education. "NAEYC accreditation assures families in our community that children enrolled in our program receive exceptional care and superior early learning experiences. He further states, "Achieving the accreditation is a testament to the dedication, planning, and hard work provided by everyone on the Shelton School Readiness Council, City of Shelton, Shelton Public Schools, & TEAM Inc. It has been a real pleasure to experience everyone's efforts in developing and implementing this Early Education example of the Mark of Quality for some of Shelton's youngest children and their families."

The accreditation process examines all aspects of a program . including health and safety, teacher qualifications, and administration . the focus is on the interactions between teachers and children, and the quality of the child's experience. As of September 2006, new and more rigorous standards were put into place that reflect the latest research and best practices in early childhood education and development.

"The new NAEYC accreditation system raises the bar for preschools, child care centers and other early childhood programs," said NAEYC Executive Director Mark Ginsberg. "Shelton School Readiness NAEYC accreditation is a sign that they are a leader in a national effort to invest in high-quality early childhood education and to help give all children a better start."

To earn NAEYC's accreditation using the more rigorous standards, Shelton School Readiness went through an extensive self-study process, measuring the program and its services against ten new NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and more than 400 related Accreditation Criteria. In order to receive

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accreditation, a program has to achieve a minimum of 80% on each of the 10 NAEYC Program Standards as well as score at least a 70% on each classroom observed. The programs received NAEYC accreditation after an on-site visit by NAEYC assessors to ensure that the program meets each of the ten program standards. Shelton School Readiness achieved over 100% on six programs standards, 100% on three of them and 95% on the final standard. The classroom observation scored at 99%.

Several parents and Shelton Superintendent of Shelton Public Schools, have praised the work of TEAM and the Shelton School Readiness Council. Parent Sharon Rago Foley, who recently relocated to Shelton from New York City, said, "Being an early childhood special education teacher with 15+ years experience, in addition to being a mom with three young children, the accreditation from NAEYC means a great deal to those of us in early childhood. To be recognized at a national level is something to be proud of. Accreditation is never easy . especially the preparation and the angst that is raised as the site visit date gets closer" said, Freeman Burr Superintendent of Shelton Public Schools. "The School Readiness program received wonderful ratings reflective of the very fine program implemented."

To learn more about Shelton School Readiness contact David Morgan, Vice President of Early Education at (203) 734-8609 ext. 32.

TEAM Inc. is a private, 501C (3) non-profit corporation whose mission is to connect individuals and families with solutions that lead to well-being, self-sufficiency and full participation in the community. It aims to achieve its mission by conducting activities that address the needs of economically disadvantaged individuals and families including resource mobilization, education, advocacy and service delivery. TEAM programs serve the communities of Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Derby, Milford, Orange, Oxford, Shelton, Seymour and Woodbridge.