



**FOOTHILLS CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Foothills Child Advocacy Center Appoints New Executive Director**

(CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va.) June 10, 2013 – The Foothills Child Advocacy Center (Foothills) of Charlottesville, Va., has appointed Cathee Johnson Phillips as Executive Director. She began duties May 1.

Johnson Phillips comes to Foothills from the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) in Washington, D.C., where she had served as the NPA's Executive Director since 2008. Previously she was Director of Foundation and Grant Relations, External Relations, and Public Relations at Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa.

As Executive Director of Foothills, she will oversee operations, fund development, and public relations for the 501(c)3 non-profit organization. She said, "I am very much looking forward to serving Charlottesville, Albemarle County, and surrounding counties as a member of the Foothills' team. The child advocacy center fulfills a very important need in the community, and it is a privilege to be able to contribute to an organization that advocates for children and strengthens families."

In her role as the NPA Executive Director, Johnson Phillips managed operations of the non-profit organization and engaged in public education and advocacy with federal agencies on behalf of new researchers. She served as principal investigator of the organization's National Science Foundation ADVANCE grant, among others, and regularly facilitated sessions or presented at universities and conferences across the country.

She has had several publications; most recently, she served as co-author of the NPA resource book, *From Ph.D. to Professoriate: The Role of the Institution in Fostering the Advancement of Postdoc Women*.

Johnson Phillips holds a master's degree in leadership from Bellevue University in Omaha, Neb., and a bachelor's degree from Morningside College. She resides in Barboursville, Va., and has four children and four grandchildren.

## About Foothills

Foothills provides a coordinated system of effective response and intervention to children who have been victimized. The center's goal is to minimize trauma, promote healing, ensure child safety, and hold perpetrators accountable. Foothills conducts forensic interviews with alleged child crime victims, and non-offending caretakers receive crisis intervention and referrals for services and ongoing support. Foothills is an accredited member of the National Children's Alliance (NCA) and primarily serves the City of Charlottesville and County of Albemarle. Through a grant from BAMA Works, Foothills conducts courtesy forensic interviews for surrounding counties that do not have a CAC of their own.

Foothills works with a team of professionals in Charlottesville and Albemarle dedicated to the investigation and prosecution of perpetrators and to the support and treatment of child victims and their non-offending caretakers. The multidisciplinary team (MDT) meets monthly to communicate and collaborate on child maltreatment cases. Cases are reviewed beginning with the victim's initial outcry through investigation, treatment, and prosecution. Communication within the team reduces duplication and keeps victims from falling through the cracks.

MDT partners include: Foothills; Charlottesville and Albemarle Child Protective Services; Charlottesville and Albemarle Police Departments; Charlottesville and Albemarle Victim/Witness Services; Charlottesville and Albemarle Commonwealth's Attorney's Offices; Piedmont Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA); Sexual Assault Resource Agency (SARA); Children, Youth and Family Services (CYFS); Region 10 Community Services Board; and UVA Forensic Nurse Examiners.

Foothills provides education about child advocacy and the multidisciplinary team model to the community. Foothills sponsors free trainings including *Stand Up For Kids!*, a program which educates mandated reporters, and *Stewards of Children*, a program which provides adults with the knowledge of how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse.

Foothills staff includes Johnson Phillips; Jennifer Kline, Program Coordinator; Ashley Cinalli, LCSW, Case Manager; Jane Tirrell, Administrative Coordinator; and Rachel Thielmann, Prevention Education Specialist.

For more information, please visit the center's Web site at <http://www.foothillscac.org/> or call 434-971-7233.