

## **ABLE Families earns national recognition for youth service**

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Kermit, WV -- ABLE Families, a Kermit-based nonprofit agency, announced this week that it has been designated a national “Promise Place” by the Washington, DC-based America’s Promise Alliance. The Alliance is the nation’s largest partnership organization dedicated to improving the lives of children by raising awareness, supporting communities, and engaging in nonpartisan

advocacy.

ABLE Families earned the Promise Place designation by effectively providing all five of the Alliance’s “Five Promises” to youth under one roof. These Promises include caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, effective education, and opportunities to help others.

“This is a thrill for us. What it suggests is that the services ABLE Families provides to area children are on a par with what’s being done at some of the most effective youth-oriented organizations in the country. We’re honored,” said executive director Barry Hudock.

Research has found that children receiving four of the Five Promises are far more likely to be successful, twice as likely to get A’s, twice as likely to avoid violence, and 40 percent more likely to volunteer.

“When kids receive the basic resources these promises represent, it helps level the playing field for them across racial and economic lines. Differences in geography or financial status don’t mean as much. And leveling the field is what ABLE Families is all about,” Hudock said.

The agency’s programs for young people include in-home family education for maternal and infant health, an afterschool program, and a popular series of summer camps offered annually. All programs are offered at no cost. They are funded completely by private donations and grants.

ABLE Families also offers excellent programs for adults, including GED preparation, computer literacy training, nutrition and education.

ABLE Families' mission is to confront the systemic causes of poverty by supporting families as they make positive changes in their lives. It was founded in 1995 by the Congregation of St. Joseph.

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