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Project Belong Recognizes Bill and June Andersen as 2013 Foster Family of the Year

In celebration of National Foster Care Month, May 2013, the statewide Christian foster care and adoption ministry, Project Belong, recognized Bill and June Andersen of Liberal, Kansas, as the Project Belong Foster Family of the Year. Project Belong received a thoughtful nomination of the couple and their nearly 45-year history in providing foster care for youth and children in Kansas from their current worker, Alice Gregory of Saint Francis Community Services. Alice shared that the Andersen's began their foster care experience in November of 1968 and have continued to care for children and youth of all ages throughout that time. She states that "most of the children in their home have been teen girls." June has a "strong connection with to them and has always communicated very well." The Andersen's also went on to adopt one of their foster children about five years into their foster care journey. Their worker shared that many of the youth continue to maintain connections and strong relationships with Bill and June throughout their lifetimes into adulthood. June stated that it is "the beauty of the program" to have "lifelong connections with the children." She also went on to explain that when youth come into foster care they often have very little self-worth, but in a loving, nurturing Christian environment in their home they develop a positive self-concept. Ultimately, it was their lifelong effort to provide children and youth with that loving and nurturing environment that led Project Belong to select Bill and June for this award. As their worker, Alice, shared, "Bill and June have made a great impression on the youth in foster care and the youth have made a great impression on Bill and June in return." This is the reward and blessing available to families providing foster care for youth who need loving and safe temporary homes. Project Belong is a Christian nonprofit ministry organization whose mission is to work in partnership with the Church, families, and the community to awaken the Church to the call of James 1:27 and to recruit, train, and support foster and adoptive families. Each year thousands of children in Kansas need loving, safe foster homes, and currently in Kansas there are over 900 children needing to be adopted. Families like Bill and June Andersen and other Christians across the state can make a difference in the lives of these children. For more information about the ministry work of Project Belong, visit www.projectbelong.org or contact ministry CEO, Brandon Hoffman, at 620-234-6089 or brandon@projectbelong.