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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

UNT Researchers Assess The Parenting Center's Community Impact

Nov. 10th, Fort Worth, TX – A team of University of North Texas researchers, led by Dr. Arminta Jacobson of the UNT College of Education, will launch a study this week to determine the effectiveness of The Parenting Center's Family Life Education (FLE) program on those it has impacted over the past several years. The team's focus is to measure the effectiveness of the agency's evidence based programs. This research "also allows us to show the public the short and long-term benefits of our programs and how we've impacted families in our community," says FLE Program Manager Jennifer Acker. *Nurturing Parenting*, created by Family Development Resources, is an internationally recognized, evidence based program proven to strengthen all family members' discipline and communication skills. The Parenting Center launched a *Nurturing Parenting* series at the agency in January 2011. The eight-week course involves children and parents in classes together. Acker states: "Our ultimate goal is to make sure that clients who take an eight-week parenting series are implementing what they've learned – specifically in their beliefs, attitudes and parenting practices – because otherwise they're just hearing the information." This study will help determine to what degree clients are implementing the information obtained. This short and long-term outcome data is becoming increasingly important to funders who are interested in the impact that their donations is making, especially in today's competitive funding market. Over the past year, agencies like the United Way of Tarrant County have encouraged nonprofits to show this kind of return on investment to their donors. "Now we'll have more data to back up the benefits of what we do," says Acker. Family Life Education is the agency's oldest program, created during The Parenting Center's inception 36 years ago. The Parenting Center impacts nearly 18,000 individuals a year by providing family life education, counseling, case management and co-parenting programs.

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