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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**AIDS Family Services and The MOCHA Center Model Community Collaboration
*Organizations to Move in Together on February 1st***

Buffalo, New York, January 26, 2010– AIDS Family Services (AFS) and the MOCHA Center (MOCHA) are vacating their current office locations and moving in together at 1092 Main Street (next to Trinity Lutheran Church, between North and Summer) as of February 1st, 2010.

AFS and MOCHA have been developing a collaborative partnership since 2007, when the two organizations embarked on a joint food pantry program. The food pantry has been staffed and administered by AFS, and housed at MOCHA. This joint project has allowed both agencies to bring together its respective resources to better meet the needs of the community and the clients whom they each serve.

Upon co-location, the two organizations are planning to integrate operational and financial office systems and share administrative staff. AIDS Family Services' Executive Director, Jessica Walker, will be serving as the "point person" for the collaboration, and has been also functioning as the Program Director of MOCHA's Buffalo office since November to facilitate collaborative endeavors in the form of joint fund development, staffing and programming. Ms. Walker states: "We are excited to expand our collaboration to the co-location of AFS and MOCHA, and to use this opportunity to leverage our resources to promote efficiency, minimize our expenses, build capacity and offer expanded and integrated services in one location." Damon Humes, Executive Director of MOCHA ads: "It is essential for us as leaders in the non-profit community to work towards positive change on an individual, organizational and community level. This collaboration not only makes sense in terms of cost savings, but also in regard to building partnerships so that we can tackle the tough problems that plague Buffalo as a unified front."

AIDS Family Services (AFS) began in 1989, as one of the founding AIDS service organizations in the Buffalo area, and is known as a hub for services that address the emotional, psychological, social and spiritual needs for persons living with HIV/AIDS, as well as their family members and partners. Its mission is to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic through a holistic care model that promotes well-being in mind, body and spirit, with an emphasis on individual and community level empowerment. The MOCHA Center (MOCHA) was founded in 1996 as "Men of Color Health Awareness Project, Inc." dedicated to the concept of programs created by, directed by and for gay and bisexual men and transgender people of color to promote positive health outcomes. In 2009, the name was changed to The MOCHA Center to reflect an increasingly diverse client base. Its mission is to improve health and wellness in communities of color through intervention and service with an emphasis on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) programming.

Support for the collaboration has been provided by the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County and The John R. Oishei Foundation. The John R. Oishei Foundation strives to be a catalyst for change to enhance economic vitality and the quality of life for the Buffalo Niagara region. The Foundation was established in 1940 by John R. Oishei, founder of Trico Products Corporation.