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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 3, 2013

Family Services' Nicole Queen Nominated in the Category of Child Care Center Director at the 2013 Bammy Awards

(Gaithersburg, MD) -- Family Services, Inc. (FSI) is proud to announce that Nicole Queen, Center Director for FSI's Watch Me Grow Child Development Center, has been nominated for honors in the category of Child Care Center Director at the 2013 Bammy Awards.

Presented by the Academy of Education Arts and Sciences International, the Bammy Award is a cross-discipline award recognizing the contributions of educators from across the education field.

In 2009, Family Services opened Watch Me Grow Child Development Center in Clarksburg, Maryland, with Nicole as the Center Director. Opening its doors with six children enrolled, in just two-and-a-half years and through tough economic times, the center has flourished and now has a waiting list. The primary focus of Watch Me Grow has been on creating a family like atmosphere. Many of the students feel as though it is a second home for them.

"I never got into Early Childhood Education for awards, but to make a difference in young children's lives," stated Nicole Queen, Center Director for Watch Me Grow and Bammy Award nominee. "I wanted to create a place where parents could leave their child and go to work, knowing that their most precious gift is safe, happy and in a nurturing environment where they will thrive."

It warms the hearts of those involved with Watch Me Grow, that families belonging to the center should feel comfortable with the place they entrust with their children. Many students have shown their support by spending their personal time attending community events that have been sponsored by Watch Me Grow. Students, as well as their parents, are both ready for the transition to public school. A workshop was created specifically for parents in concern to kindergarten readiness, and how best to prepare your child for school. The event was a success, with over 40 parents in attendance. Watch Me Grow feels that every child and family deserve the absolute best for their children and they simply will not stand for anything less.

"Nominees like Nicole are making a difference in education every day. It's more important now than ever to publicly honor educators and to show what's right with American Education," said Errol St. Clair Smith, Executive Producer of the Bammy Awards. "The positive response to the inaugural Bammy Awards in 2012 was overwhelming. Clearly the notion of collaboratively acknowledging what our nation's educators are doing well is an idea whose time has come."

Award winners will be honored during a red-carpet event on September 21, 2013 at the Arena Stage in Washington D.C. The Bammy Awards are presented by The Academy of Education Arts and Sciences International, which includes leading educators, education leaders, education professors, journalists, editors, researchers, commentators, advocates, activists, visionaries and pioneers. The Academy is comprised of a board of governors, a council of peers and the executive committee.

Public voting ends May 15, 2013 and award winners will be announced on June 30th. So please visit www.bammyawards.org, and cast your vote for Nicole Queen today!

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About Watch Me Grow Child Development

Watch Me Grow Child Development Center is an early childhood education program dedicated to caring for preschool children ages 6 weeks to 5 years. Our mission is to provide a warm, secure and nurturing environment that encourages children to explore, create and develop a lifelong love of learning.

Watch Me Grow promotes the gifts and talents of each individual child and meets the highest quality standards established by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). We utilize the MSDE-approved Creative Curriculum that translates early care research and theory into a fun program that will interest and challenge your child. For more information about Watch Me Grow, please call 240-686-0572 or visit us at www.wmgclarksburg.org.

About Family Services, Inc.

Family Services, Inc., an affiliate of the Sheppard and Enoch Pratt Foundation, is the oldest non-profit social service and behavioral health organization in Montgomery County, Maryland. Founded in 1908, FSI's mission is to foster strong and healthy individuals and families through innovative education, behavioral health, child development, and social services that address needs in the home, school, and community. Headquartered in Gaithersburg, MD, FSI serves over 22,000 individuals and families each year throughout Montgomery County, Prince George's County, and Baltimore City. For more information about Family Services, please visit us at www.fs-inc.org.

About the Bammy Awards

The Bammy Awards is a cross-discipline award that identifies and acknowledges the good work being done all across the education village. The Bammy Awards were created in response to the tremendous national pressure on educators and education leaders to improve student outcomes, the impact of high-stakes accountability and the intense scrutiny that today's educators face. The Awards aim to foster cross-discipline recognition of the collective contributions being made to educate children, encourage collaboration in a across the various domains, elevate education and education successes in the public eye, and raise the profile and voices of the many undervalued and unrecognized people who are making a difference in the field.

The Bammy Award is sponsored by BAM Radio Network, which produces education radio shows for the nation's leading education associations.