NEWS RELEASE

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**Azinger Compassion Center and New Foster Family Homes to Make Unparalleled Impact for Children in Manasota Area**

(BRADENTON, FLORIDA) – The headlines and facts related to child welfare are often grim in Manatee, Sarasota and Desoto Counties where children have been removed from homes more than 2,400 times during the past three years. To combat that reality, One More Child, in partnership with FBCH and Guardian Angels of SWFL, is providing incredible life-changing hope for children and families by announcing plans for the Paul and Toni Azinger Compassion Center and celebrating the construction of a fourth Foster Family Home in the Manasota area.

The Paul and Toni Azinger Compassion Center will be a transformative addition to the community that provides resources and services for families in need, single moms and foster families that will include:

* Vocational training
* Workshops (i.e. parenting skills, financial literacy, career advancement)
* Food
* Clothing
* Diapers
* Household items

The Paul and Toni Azinger Compassion Center will be modeled after the Harold Clark Simmons Compassion Center, located on One More Child’s Lakeland Campus. One More Child projects that in the first five years of operation the Paul and Toni Azinger Compassion Center will be able to have an impact of approximately 4.25 million meals provided and more than 12,000 children and individuals served.

“We have personally seen what a difference a Compassion Center can make in a community through our involvement at the Harold Clark Simmons Compassion Center in Lakeland,” said Toni Azinger. “Bradenton needs this type of center where hope-centered services are provided to children and families in need.”

The Azinger’s, longtime Bradenton residents, are matching every gift up to $500,000 total, including a $100,000 gift from the Steve and Natalee Herrig Family Foundation. More than $1 million needs to be raised to begin construction on the Compassion Center.

To make a gift to help build the Azinger Compassion Center, please visit [www.OneMoreChild/Azinger](http://www.OneMoreChild/Azinger)

“Our burden is to meet the need of every child who is hurting, hungry and helpless and the Paul and Toni Azinger Compassion Center can meet those needs immediately,” said Dr. Jerry Haag, president of One More Child. “Paul and Toni’s vision and our expertise will help create a place where community members, churches and local leaders can come together to build life-changing relationships, help families become self-sufficient and find hope again.”

Last year, FBCH and One More Child impacted 200,524 children and families and provided more than 5.5 million meals.

Meanwhile, Guardian Angels of SWFL, which has partnered with FBCH and One More Child for more than 8 years to meet the needs of children in Desoto, Manatee and Sarasota counties, is celebrating the groundbreaking of its fourth Foster Family Home on the campus in Bradenton.

Since 2015, more than 80 foster children have been provided loving, secure homes under the provision of foster parents who are provided the homes so they can care for larger sibling groups and make an impact in the lives of more children than they could in their own homes.

The vision is to have a total of 8 homes on campus, serving up to a total of 48 children at a time.

"The board of Guardian Angels is so pleased that our soon-to-be constructed Foster Family Home on the Manasota Campus in Palmetto will provide much needed additional housing for the large number of children being removed from their homes due to neglect, abuse or abandonment,” said Bobbie Price, president of the boar d and co-founder of Guardian Angels of SWFL with her husband, Floyd.  “We are also thrilled how the Azinger Compassion Center will make possible the provision of even greater services to our local foster families."

To make a gift to help build more Foster Family Homes in Bradenton, please visit [www.OneMoreChild/Manasota](http://www.OneMoreChild/Manasota)

**Enclosure:**

*Manasota Campus.jpg*

The fourth Foster Family Home is going to soon be constructed on the Manasota Campus of FBCH and One More Child. Guardian Angels of SWFL continues to raise money to work toward its goal of XXX Foster Family Homes on the campus to enable loving foster parents to care for sibling groups in foster care.

*Compassion Center Rendering.jpg*

This shows an artist’s rendering of the planned Paul and Toni Azinger Compassion Center, which would be located in Bradenton. It would be a transformative addition to the community that provides resources and services for children and families in need, single moms and foster families.

**Media availability:**

**Dr. Jerry Haag, President/CEO of FBCH and One More Child**

Available for comment; can be reached at [Communications@OneMoreChild.org](mailto:Communications@OneMoreChild.org) or by calling the One More Child Communications Department at 863-688-8811

**Bobbie Price, President of the Board of Guardian Angels of SWFL**

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