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**Acadian Ambulance Service Celebrates
Grand Opening of Central Texas Division**

Acadian Ambulance Service, founded in 1971 in Louisiana, will host a ribbon cutting ceremony in Austin on April 23. The event will take place at Acadian's Central Texas office located at 4100 Ed Bluestein Blvd. Acadian began operating in Travis and Williamson Counties in October of last year following the company purchasing select assets of MetroCare Services of Austin.

Special guests that will be speaking at ceremony are expected to include: Dr. John Sibley Butler, director of the University of Texas' prestigious IC2 Institute for Innovation and Creativity who will be representing the Austin Chamber of Commerce; Former Austin Mayor Lee Cooke; Round Rock Mayor Nyle Maxwell and Round Rock Chamber President Charlie Dromgoole. Also expected to attend are area Chamber of Commerce ambassadors, members of law enforcement and emergency services, hospital and healthcare officials and members of the media. Over 100 hundred guests are expected to attend.

Acadian provides non-emergency ambulance and contracted wheelchair van transportation for over 60 hospitals and nursing homes in the City of Austin and also offers emergency ambulance services in Travis and Williamson Counties. Vice President of Operations, Chris Cirillo, said, "Acadian is pleased to call Austin and Central Texas home and we look forward to seeking new expansion opportunities for 911 and military service contracts throughout Texas." Acadian has also opened a Central Texas campus for the company's National EMS Academy where EMT and paramedic classes will be offered.

According to company officials, Acadian isn't just another ambulance service. "Acadian is unique in that national accreditation is among our core operation principals," said Acadian CEO & Chairman Richard Zuschlag. "This assures communities and our customers that they can expect strict adherence to the EMS industry's highest standards of performance, clinical care competency and customer service."

Among the thousands of ambulance services operating in the United States, only 103 in total have earned the prestigious gold-standard designation from the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services. There are only two other accredited EMS companies operating anywhere in Texas. There are no other accredited ambulance companies operating in the Central Texas area.

"Acadian works very hard to stay ahead of the curve, using the latest technology and business practices intended to promote innovation and assure we deliver highly-accountable and unparalleled customer service," Cirillo said.

Acadian Ambulance Services' Critical Care Transport program involves providing a more advanced level of patient care to the most critical patient populations that are typically

transported from hospital to another hospital for an upgrade in care. Presented at the Austin ribbon cutting ceremony, Acadian's Critical Care Transport units are equipped and staffed to mirror the environment of an intensive care unit at a hospital. Specially trained and certified paramedics will use the latest medical technologies and have access to an onboard pharmacy, advanced ventilator equipment, and invasive vital sign monitoring equipment, all aimed to deliver and monitor critical and intensive care patients effectively while en route on the ambulance.

Acadian Ambulance has been awarded the James O. Page award from Journal of Emergency Medical Services magazine, the Senate Innovation Award from the United States Senate, along with numerous industry awards presented by the American Ambulance Association. Even Microsoft Founder and Author Bill Gates praised Acadian in his book, *At the Speed of Thought*, for using leading-edge technologies credited for improving healthcare in America. Acadian was also selected to be permanently included in the Smithsonian Institute Library of Technology.

"Our company has already implemented several new technologies in Central Texas. We have installed satellite tracking devices, driver safety monitoring equipment on our ambulances, as well as new computerized call processing technology in our local Austin dispatch center, all with the purpose of providing safe and reliable care and service to our customers and patients," Cirillo said. "Our paramedics use telephone dictation to and medical transcription to document patient records, adding efficiency to our quality assurance and improvement programs."

Acadian has big plans for Texas, according to Zuschlag, "Acadian has evolved in the last 37 years to offer new products and services for our customers in Texas and elsewhere." Acadian's Monitoring Services company offers telehealth services, allowing nurses and doctors to monitor home-health patients' vital signs; Acadian's OnWatch division is Five Diamond Certified central alarm monitoring center; Acadian On Call provides subscribers with a small pendant worn around the neck, which can summon help in an emergency with the touch of a button; Acadian's Mobile Monitoring Services provides nationwide vehicle and equipment tracking services using satellite, cellular, and Web based technologies. These services will be demonstrated at the company's open house event.

In Central Texas alone, Acadian's service area includes 2,124 square miles and more than 1.2 million people. "Beyond our dedication to quality service," said Cirillo, "we are a small industry, contributing a substantial amount of money into the local and state economy." Economists estimate that every dollar spent in a community turns over seven times before it comes to rest in a savings account or certificate of deposit. "On that basis," Cirillo explained, "our ambulance service payroll of \$3,500,000 represents about a \$24,500,000 economic boost to Central Texas in 2008."

The Acadian Ambulance Service team of over 2,700 employee-owners operates 271 ground ambulances, five medically-configured airplanes, eight air ambulance helicopters, from 107 community stations located in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

For more information about the open house or to learn more about Acadian Ambulance, visit our Web site at www.acadian.com. For more information about the operations in Central Texas contact either Julia Clarke at 512-217-7677, and email at jclarke@acadian.com or Lee Ann Broussard, PIO, 337-278-5901, lbroussard@acadian.com.

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