



For Immediate Release
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**41 Treehouse Lane Host Donates Puppets from the Show to Synergy
*Legacy of Helping Children Overcome Life Obstacles Lives On***

At 88 years young, longtime puppeteer and children's performer Mary Lou Anderson wants the puppets she used to entertain and educate children from 1970-1984 on two original television shows on KSHB-TV (formerly KBMA-TV) to keep helping kids. That's why she chose to donate them to Synergy Services where they will be used by staff therapists to help the children served by the agency. Ms. Anderson will visit Synergy's therapy center at **400 East Sixth Street in Parkville**, Missouri this **Thursday** at **10:30** to visit with therapists and see the puppets in their new environment.

Ms. Anderson hosted *41 Treehouse Lane*, the first local program to air on Channel 41 when it opened in 1970. She also hosted the *Mother Nature Show*, which she wrote, produced and starred in for over a decade. She and her puppets helped children learn important lessons about character and navigate the challenges of the day. Her mission to entertain and serve children did not end when the show did—to this day she is passionate about both. That passion led her to donate more than 20 puppets from her collection to Synergy. Her legacy will continue, she says, in the amazing "foster home" that is Synergy.

"Synergy is giving new life to my life's work," Ms. Anderson says. "I am excited to see my foster kids thrive."

Every day, Synergy's therapists help children move beyond the limits of vocabulary to express themselves through art and play. Art and play therapy sessions provide a relaxed and interactive environment for children to deal with complex issues.

"We are so grateful to Mary Lou for this wonderful gift," said Florence Mancuso, a family care therapist at Synergy. "These puppets will bring joy and healing to so many children at Synergy."

About Synergy Services

Through a full spectrum of programs for children, youth and adults, Synergy Services strives to overcome family violence in our community. Annually, the agency reaches nearly 40,000 people through emergency and transitional shelter; counseling and mental health services; community education programs and legal advocacy.

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