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**CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER RECEIVES \$25,000 FROM  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

STAMFORD, CT/July 16, 2009 – The Child Guidance Center of Southern Connecticut (CGC), a non-profit agency providing professional mental health services to children, adolescents, and their families, has received a \$25,000 competitive grant from the Fairfield County Community Foundation (FCCF).

The grant will provide a second year of support from FCCF for CGC's Quality Improvement (QI) Program. In 2008, CGC hired a QI professional, Kim DiBella-Farber, who, in her first year, has implemented a formal QI Program. Building on the agency's long standing commitment to best practices, this comprehensive initiative focuses on assuring compliance with increasingly complex government regulations, collection and analysis of clinical data to identify trends and needs in children's mental health, and enhancements to CGC's ability to measure effectiveness and impact of its clinical programs.

“We are profoundly grateful for a second year of funding from FCCF,” said CGC Executive Director Sherry Perlstein. “As a 55 year old agency, CGC's commitment to providing state of the art effective mental health services for children and their families is foundational. The QI Program supports our pledge to professionalism and excellence in a challenging environment that places a high premium on being able to quantify and demonstrate results.”

In one year, QI Director Kim DiBella-Farber has enhanced practice and streamlined systems to foster continual improvements in the quality of services and efficiency of the agency. Among many accomplishments, she successfully initiated methods to monitor adherence to timeframe goals for response to referrals based on the degree of urgency of each situation. A crucial function for an agency managing over 2,100 referrals annually, this systematic triage procedure assures that highest risk patients are seen immediately, while those with less critical needs are offered appointments to be seen within two weeks.

Ms. Perlstein credits the QI Program for raising the bar on accountability and excellence. “Youngsters come to us with serious mental health issues, including violent and self-destructive behavior and thoughts of suicide. Others may be distressed by traumatic life events such as abuse, the death of a parent or a serious illness. We take our responsibility to these children very seriously. This grant from the FCCF has supported our efforts meet the expectations of families, schools, police, physicians and others who refer children to us for help.”

The Fairfield County Community Foundation promotes the growth of community and regional philanthropy to improve the quality of life throughout Fairfield County. Individuals, families, corporations and organizations can establish charitable funds and contribute to existing funds. The Foundation also provides philanthropic advisory services, and develops and leads initiatives to tackle critical community issues. It is in compliance with the Council on Foundations’ national standards for community foundations. The Foundation has awarded over \$110 million in grants to nonprofits in Fairfield County and beyond. For more information, visit [www.fccfoundation.org](http://www.fccfoundation.org).

The Child Guidance Center of Southern Connecticut is a non-profit mental health resource, serving children and teenagers in Stamford, Greenwich, Darien and New Canaan. The CGC's clinical staff of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and marriage and family therapists work with more than 2,100 children annually, providing culturally competent and sensitive care to families representative of the rich ethnic mix of communities CGC serves. Preventative services are provided to youngsters, parents, and professionals through community education and consultation programs. Incorporated in 1954, CGC is supported by the Connecticut Department of Children & Families, Connecticut Office of Victim Crime Services and United Ways of Western Connecticut and Greenwich, The Community Fund of Darien, and New Canaan Community Foundation, as well as generous individual, foundation, and corporate contributions.

[www.childguidancect.org](http://www.childguidancect.org)

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*Photo: CGC Quality Improvement Director Kim DiBella-Farber (far right, in yellow) conducts a training session with CGC staff.*