

GOVERNOR RELL DECLARES MAY 12
DEBORAH BETH WEINTRAUB CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DAY

STAMFORD, CT/May 7, 2007 – Connecticut Governor Jodi Rell has issued a proclamation to designate May 12, 2007 as Deborah Beth Weintraub Children's Mental Health Services Day in the State of Connecticut. The date marks the fifth anniversary of the Stamford resident's untimely death at the young age of 28, a direct result of psychological and emotional illness.

In conjunction with the proclamation, Governor Rell also recognized the Weintraub family's work with the Child Guidance Center of Southern Connecticut where, in Deborah's memory, her family established the Deborah B. Weintraub 24-Hour Mobile Crisis Memorial Fund. This fund supports the organization's Emergency Mobile Crisis Program, which provides 24-hour crisis assessment and stabilization services for children and adolescents experiencing serious psychiatric symptoms (suicidal ideation, violent or self destructive behavior, psychotic symptoms including gross impairments in judgment and reality testing), or severe reactions to a recent traumatic event (child abuse, neglect and sexual abuse, domestic and school violence, children suffering from serious physical illness or impacted by the illness or death of a parent or significant others).

"We created this fund in my sister's memory because we wanted something good to come out of her suffering. I am proud that we can assist other families through the work of the Child Guidance Center and that this is part of Deborah's legacy," said Laura Weintraub Beck of Westport, who also joined the Board of Directors at the center following her sister's death. "My family is deeply grateful for the Governor's May 12 designation and to Representative Jim Shapiro for his support in pursuing this recognition for my sister and the Child Guidance Center. This helps keep Deborah's spirit alive in a way that I hope has meaning not only for my family but also for the children in our community."

According to Sherry Perlstein, executive director of the center, the Emergency Mobile Crisis Program was created in 1987 and helps more than 200 children and teens annually.

"The program enables us to be available 24 / 7 and to go to a child's home, school or wherever we are needed to reach a child in crisis quickly," Perlstein said. "Our goal in doing so is to

stabilize the situation and help the family avoid the more costly and disruptive alternatives of hospitalization and out-of-home placement.”

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, both self referred and through referrals from schools, courts, human services agencies, and physicians. The CGC’s clinical staff of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and marriage and family therapists work with more than 2,000 area 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 public education and consultation programs. Incorporated in 1954, the CGC is supported by the Connecticut Department of Children & Families, Connecticut Office of Victim Services and United Ways of Greenwich, New Canaan and Stamford, the Community Fund of Darien as well as generous individual, foundation, and corporate contributions.

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