

# **Governor Rell Announces \$1.5 Million to Help Expand Child Guidance Center of Southern Connecticut**

MAY 15, 2008: Governor M. Jodi Rell today announced that \$1.5 million to help expand the Child Guidance Center of Southern Connecticut is expected to gain approval when the state Bond Commission meets May 30.

Founded in 1954, the Child Guidance Center provides a wide range of mental health services to children with emotional, behavioral, social and family problems.

“The Child Guidance Center has been helping young people and their families since 1954 and demand for their services is growing constantly,” Governor Rell said. “Last year the agency served more than 2,100 children and families, almost twice as many as they helped 10 years ago, so it is clear the expansion is needed and I am pleased the state will be able to help. This expansion will enable the agency to renovate their original building while buying and refitting a second building.

“The focus of the Child Guidance Center has been on helping children where they live, which has reduced the need for placements out of the home,” the Governor said. “In turn, that has reduced disruptions in the lives of the families they serve. The state commitment will more than match \$2 million the Child Guidance Center has raised on its own, an achievement that reflects the high regard residents have for the agency.”

Governor Rell thanked retiring state Representative Christel Truglia (D-145) for her strong advocacy on behalf of the Child Guidance Center.

“The Child Guidance Center of Southern Connecticut is a vitally important community resource and we are immensely grateful for the services it has provided through the decades,” Representative Truglia said. “The center has served people of all backgrounds, but it has a long history of providing professional services to children from low income and uninsured families – people who often do not have the option of getting help from the private sector. I am very grateful to Governor Rell and the Bond Commission for providing the funding to move this project ahead.”

The agency offers therapy for children, adolescents and families; an emergency mobile crisis response team; a sexual abuse response unit; services for crime victims; services for children with HIV; and other services including a range of prevention programs. The state Department of Children and Families has designated the Child Guidance Center as the lead agency for emergency mobile psychiatric and care coordination services in the region.

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