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CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER RECEIVES \$ 50,000 FROM HEDGE FUNDS CARE

STAMFORD, CT/August 01, 2008 – The Child Guidance Center of Southern Connecticut (CGC), a non-profit agency providing professional mental health services to children, teenagers, and their families, has received a \$50,000 grant from Hedge Funds Care (HFC). The grant, awarded to CGC for the sixth consecutive year, will support both the agency-led Lower Fairfield County Sexual Abuse Response Team (SART) and its Child, Adolescent and Family Therapy Program (CAFT).

HFC annually raises funds and awards grants to community-based non-profit organizations that help abused and neglected children. According to CGC Executive Director Sherry Perlstein, the number of children and teens referred to the agency currently exceeds 2,100 annually, and this number continues to grow. The HFC grant will help CGC continue to provide its services to physically and sexually abused and neglected children.

“We are pleased that our programs have once again met Hedge Funds Care’s high standards for funding,” said Perlstein. “We are profoundly grateful to have had such a consistent financial contribution from this organization over the last six years and feel very fortunate to have their support in our effort to help abused children.”

SART is an interagency team that integrates criminal justice and protective services investigations and provides comprehensive services for child sexual abuse victims and non-offending parents. The team was the first in the state to receive national accreditation, and serves as a model program throughout New England, providing training across the region.

The CAFT program is the cornerstone of the CGC. It provides a broad range of mental health diagnostic and treatment services for youngsters and their families, referred to the Center under non-emergency circumstances. The program's goal is to reduce problems that interfere with daily functioning and mitigate the harmful effects of emotional problems on future development.

HFC, established in 1998, is an alliance of alternative investment industry professionals committed to protecting children from abuse and neglect. The group includes money managers, investors, prime brokers, attorneys, accountants, and information providers. Funds are raised through annual *Open Your Heart to the Children* benefits held in the U.S. and abroad and are distributed locally to community based organizations that provide:

- **Prevention** services to at-risk children and families.
- **Treatment** for children who have been physically or sexually abused.
- **Support** services to non-offending family members of children who have been abused.
- **Prevention** through training to enhance awareness and understanding of abuse and neglect for children, parents, and community members.
- **Training** for community members such as teachers, social workers, medical staff and religious leaders on recognition and reporting of abuse.
- **Research** on best practices in child welfare.
- **Legal advocacy** to children in crisis.

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, physicians, courts, and public and private human service agencies. 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 the CGC serves. Preventive services are provided to youngsters, parents, and professionals through community education and consultation programs.

Recognized by the state for the excellence of its services, the CGC was selected to provide 24 hour Emergency Mobile Crisis Services, and has been designated as an Enhanced

Care Clinic under the state's new Behavioral Health System. Incorporated in 1954, the CGC is supported by the Connecticut Department of Children & Families, Connecticut Office of Victim Services and United Ways of Western Connecticut, Greenwich, and New Canaan, the Community Fund of Darien as well as generous individual, foundation, and corporate contributions.

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