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CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER RECEIVES \$7,500 FROM NEAR & FAR AID ASSOCIATION

STAMFORD, CT/March 7, 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 \$7,500 grant from Near & Far Aid Association. This funding is the final installment of a two-year award from Near & Far Aid.

The grant will provide support for CGC's Emergency Mobile Crisis Services (EMCS) program that offers immediate mental health assessment and crisis stabilization services to children and adolescents with serious psychiatric symptoms or reactions to traumatic events. The program focuses on youth suicide prevention and provides round-the-clock mobile services to stabilize emergencies at home, school and in the community.

“Last year alone, 227 children and adolescents were served by CGC's EMCS program,” said CGC Executive Director Sherry Perlstein. “We appreciate this support dedicated to helping the highest risk youngsters in our community. Through Near & Far Aid's generosity, CGC will continue to provide effective emergency services to reduce harmful behavior and foster recovery from traumatic incidents.”

The Near & Far Aid Association is an all-volunteer fund-raising and fund-granting organization, which grants \$.97 of every dollar raised to agencies in Fairfield County addressing the immediate and systemic issues of poverty. Since 2000, Near & Far Aid has granted over \$7 million to address the critical needs of families at risk, adults in crisis, disadvantaged children and youth, the homeless, the elderly, and those in need of education, job training, and community health services. Last year Near & Far Aid raised through donations and special events an unprecedented \$1.4 million, which is currently being distributed to approximately 100 charitable

agencies which are making a difference in the lives of thousands in our communities. To learn more about the Near & Far Aid Association, visit www.nearandfar.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, 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.

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. www.childguidancect.org

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Pictured: Near and Far Aid Association Board Member Pam Finley (left) presents CGC Executive Director Sherry Perlstein (right) with a grant for \$7,500.