

PRESS CONTACTS:  
Melissa LoParco  
Yuliya Kutuzava  
Catalyst Marketing Communications, Inc.  
(203) 348-7541

**CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER & AMERICAN RED CROSS OF DARIEN/STAMFORD PARTNER  
TO BETTER SERVE CHILDREN IN CRISIS SITUATIONS**

STAMFORD, CT/June 09, 2008 – Natural and man-made disasters and other crises can strike in any community, anytime, anywhere. This is part of the reason that two local agencies well-experienced in these areas are joining efforts to meet the needs of children and families who are faced with the aftermath of a traumatic event. As such, the Child Guidance Center of Southern Connecticut (CGC) and the American Red Cross (ARC), Darien/Stamford Chapter has announced the initiation of a partnership to better serve the needs of children in crisis situations resulting from disasters.

When called in by the ARC, Darien/Stamford Chapter, CGC will be available on-site or at CGC offices when referral is appropriate, to provide mental health assessment and crisis stabilization services to children in emergency situations. Such circumstances might result from house or apartment fires, severe weather, transportation accidents, terrorism and so on. At the same time, CGC can refer families to the ARC, Darien/Stamford Chapter for benefits and support as needed. This two-way partnership aims to provide prompt access to a broad range of crucial supports and services to help children, teens and families in the aftermath of catastrophes.

“It is very natural for the American Red Cross to partner with the Child Guidance Center because both organizations provide much-needed help to people in the most vulnerable situations,” said Patty Burke, Executive Director of the American Red Cross, Darien/Stamford Chapter. “The Child Guidance Center’s professional mental health expertise in helping children cope with and recover from trauma is an invaluable and a welcome addition to our emergency response capabilities.”

“Our Emergency Mobile Crisis therapists have extensive experience responding to youngsters and families in crisis, such as school or home violence, suicide or even the sudden death of a parent, teacher or classmate,” said CGC Executive Director Sherry Perlstein. “This partnership will help augment the services already provided by American Red Cross staff and volunteers and extend our service to families impacted by disasters in our community when the Red Cross is mobilized.”

The American Red Cross helps people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. Last year, almost a million volunteers and 35,000 employees helped victims of almost 75,000 disasters; taught lifesaving skills to millions; and helped U.S. service members separated from their families stay connected. Almost 4 million people gave blood through the American Red Cross, the largest supplier of blood and blood products in the United States. The American Red Cross is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. An average of 91 cents of every dollar the American Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs. The American Red Cross is not a government agency; it relies on donations of time, money and blood to do its work. The American Red Cross, Darien/Stamford Chapter serves the needs of both communities.

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 public education and consultation programs. Incorporated in 1954, the CGC is supported by the Connecticut Department of Children & Families, Connecticut Office of Victim Crime Services and United Ways of Greenwich, New Canaan and Western Connecticut, the Community Fund of Darien as well as generous individual, foundation, and corporate contributions.

###