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CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER NAMES NEW SOCIAL WORK INTERNS

STAMFORD, CT/November 21, 2008 – The Child Guidance Center of Southern Connecticut (CGC) has announced the one-year appointment of four new interns to its Social Work Internship Program. The interns Jennifer McBride, Jessica Donohue, Mary Kate Oliviori, and Laura van Riper will work closely with the CGC's experienced therapists to gain valuable experience in the field of social work while providing mental health diagnostic and treatment services to children and their families.

In addition to her internship at the CGC, Jennifer McBride works as a counselor at Kids in Crisis in Cos Cob. Prior to that, she worked at the Family and Children's Agency, Inc. in Norwalk as an intern for the After School Program as well as a Parent Aide and a Mental Health Counselor for the Intensive In-Home Child and Adolescence Psychiatric Services program. She holds a bachelor of science degree in public health from Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, where she is currently pursuing her master's in social work degree.

Jessica Donohue comes to the CGC after working as an intern at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia, Penn. Prior to that, she spent two years as a child care counselor at Bonnie Brae, a residential treatment center for adolescent boys in Liberty Corner, N.J. Donohue, is a graduate student at Smith College School for Social Work in Northampton, Mass. She holds a bachelor of arts degree in women's and gender studies with a minor in psychology from The College of New Jersey in Ewing, N.J.

Before joining the CGC, Mary Kate Oliviori worked four years as a teacher at Whitby School in Greenwich. She also served as a family service worker for Head Start in Stamford, Conn. Oliviori received a bachelor of arts degree in communications from Fairfield University

and holds a Montessori Education Credential from the Center for Montessori Teacher Education of New York. She is currently working towards her master's in social work at Fordham University.

Laura van Riper comes to the CGC after serving three years as director of the Parent Awareness Program at the YWCA of Darien/Norwalk. She served two years as President of the Board of Directors for the Darien United Way and eight years as a board member for The Children's School in Stamford. Van Riper also has extensive human resources experience, most recently working for two years as the Vice President of Human Resources for Bread & Circus, in Newton, Mass. She holds a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Boston College and is currently pursuing her master's degree in social work from Columbia University in New York City. Van Riper is a member of National Association of Social Workers.

The CGC provides an exceptionally rich training program for social work interns, including a caseload of 7-10 patients and two hours of individual supervision by senior social work clinicians. Students are responsible for the face-to-face therapy of their clients as well as all the paperwork, insurance requirements and referrals related to their cases. In addition, social work interns attend a weekly student seminar program covering a wide range of clinical topics, including a year-long series about play therapy. Students also participate in cognitive behavioral therapy and family therapy training groups. Lastly, interns observe and, in some cases, participate in specialized programs that concentrate on specific kinds of consultations or evaluations. At the end of the year, each student will be required to give a case presentation to the CGC staff.

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 service agencies, and physicians. 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 Service 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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