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CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER RECEIVES \$2,000 FROM ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

STAMFORD, CT/March 19, 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 \$2,000 grant from St. John's Community Foundation, Inc.

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.

“Through the generous support of St. John's Community Foundation, CGC will be able to continue helping the highest risk youngsters in our community,” said CGC Executive Director Sherry Perlstein. “Last year, 227 children and adolescents were served by CGC's EMCS program. We appreciate this grant and we will continue to provide effective emergency services to reduce harmful behavior and foster recovery from traumatic incidents.”

Since its formation 21 years ago by St. John's Episcopal Church in Stamford, the St. John's Community Foundation has awarded more than four million dollars to Stamford community organizations. “Our call for 2009 grants resulted in a more than 30% increase in grant submissions over the previous year,” said Peter F. Eder, the current Chair of the Foundation Trustees. “We are delighted to support the CGC during these increasingly trying times, and encourage their efforts to assist 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.

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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