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ANNUAL COME PLAY! GALA RAISES FUNDS FOR CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER

STAMFORD, CT/May 28, 2008 – Nearly 300 guests sporting chic camp attire, including an evening dress adorned with marshmallows and tuxedo jacket with Hawaii shorts, gathered recently at Roger Sherman Baldwin Park for the Child Guidance Center of Southern Connecticut’s *Come Play!* gala. CGC’s annual benefit raised more than \$255,000 to support the center’s mission to provide mental health programs and services to children, teens and families in Greenwich, Darien, New Canaan and Stamford.

The event committee selected “It’s Camp!” as the theme for this year’s event to emphasize the importance of play in the lives of children and reinforce the agency’s mission to restore childhood for those young people who grapple with mental health issues.

“We are so very grateful for the support we receive for our services and programs both at this event and throughout the year,” said CGC Executive Director Sherry Perlstein. “But I feel particularly touched by the generosity of our guests for the funds raised in the Paddle Raise this year, as these donations will directly support our work with children who have been abused and neglected.”

The Greenwich Park was designed to resemble a tented campground, with tables illuminated by mini-campfire centerpieces and the chic camp-y menu provided by caterer Abigail Kirsch. Guests participated in silent and live auctions that featured everything from a round trip private charter to Nantucket, to a fighter pilot for a day, to a more relaxing sailboat adventure. Richard Madley, a famed auctioneer and frequent guest on PBS’ “Antiques Roadshow,” led the live auction.

“Our committee members did an incredible job carrying the theme through the event – from the wonderful decorations to the bug juice cocktails and Chilean Sea Bass entrée. It was also fantastic that so many of our guests arrived dressed and ready for ‘camp,’ which made for quite a fun and memorable evening,” said Debby Lash, CGC Board member and event steering committee co-chair. “Each year the event attracts friends both old and new, and it is because of their generosity and support that we are able to help so many families in need of the Center’s services.”

ComePlay! gala sponsors included Deloitte & Touche U.S.A., LLP; GE; GE Money; Kelley, Drye & Warren; KPMG; Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker, LLP; Sempra Energy; Thomson Reuters; Towers Perrin; and UBS Investment Bank.

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 services agencies, and physicians. The CGC’s clinical staff of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and marriage and family therapists work with more than 2,100 area 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, CGC is supported by the Connecticut Department of Children & Families, Connecticut Office of Victim 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.

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