

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PROGRAM WORKS TO CURB CHILDREN'S CHALLENGING BEHAVIORS IN CHILD CARE

Rochester, NY, March 15, 2010 – According to a study conducted by the Center for Governmental Research (2001), 16% of all children enrolled in formal registered and licensed child care providers (centers and family day care providers) in Monroe County were identified by providers as having significant behavioral problems and/or developmental delays. Children's Institute and its partners are working to lower that statistic with **Behavioral and Social Interventions for Children (BASIC)**, a complement of research-based programs that support children's social and emotional development in child care and pre-k settings.

Funded by United Way of Greater Rochester through its *Blueprint for Change: Early Childhood*, this three-year effort utilizes an integrated set of evidence-based programs in seven accredited child care centers in Rochester that serve over 500 primarily low income, urban children and their parents. "Just as no two children are alike, no one program can meet the social and emotional needs of every child. When used together, these programs will help prevent young children from developing challenging behaviors and treat those children who have already developed such behaviors," commented A. Dirk Hightower, Ph.D., Executive Director of Children's Institute. "BASIC reflects years of work by a task force of mental health and early childhood experts on challenging behaviors that was formed by the Early Childhood Development Initiative, a 17-year community-wide effort on ensuring high quality early childhood," said Hightower.

Children's Institute oversees implementation of BASIC at the centers and manages each of the various components. BASIC follows the Teaching Pyramid Model (TPM), which provides nurturing environments for all students, targeted supports, and finally, intensive interventions for those in need. The evidence-based programs include:

- The Incredible Years support for parents
- PATHS® (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies), a social-emotional curriculum now being used in preschool classrooms
- Primary Project, a play-based program for children who are paired 1-1 with a trained adult
- Behavioral health consultation, child parent psychotherapy, and trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy complete the continuum for those children who need more intensive intervention

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Services are provided through a collaboration of agencies including Catholic Family Center, Children's Institute, Family Resource Centers, Mt. Hope Family Center, and the Society for the Protection and Care of Children. Participating child care centers include Baden Street Child Development Center, Friendship Children's Center, Lakeside Child and Family Center, YMCA Child Care Center at Lewis Street, Richard M. Guon Child Care Center at Monroe Community College, Rochester Childfirst Network, and Wilson Commencement Park Early Learning Center.

"An important component of BASIC is connecting families to counseling services at Mt. Hope Family Center," comments Anne Barker, Director of the Richard M. Guon Child Care Center at Monroe Community College. "For example, we have a family currently participating in this program, and I feel quite certain that they would not have used this service if it had not been coordinated through BASIC." she explained. "It is very intimidating for a family to reach out to a mental health provider on their own," said Barker.

Children's Institute is a national not-for-profit organization that works to improve the lives of children by strengthening their social and emotional health. Through sound research and evaluation, the organization develops and promotes effective prevention and early intervention programs, materials, and best practices for children, families, schools, and communities. Children's Institute is affiliated with the University of Rochester and has served the community for over 50 years.

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