

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 1, 2012

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Elementary school educators gather to support student's social and emotional learning

Woodcliff Hotel and Spa, 199 Woodcliff Drive, Fairport, NY... On October 3 & 4, approximately 100 school personnel will attend a conference sponsored by Children's Institute to learn how to implement the national, evidence-based Primary Project program, which helps students who are just beginning to show signs of behavior difficulties in pre-k through 3rd grade.

"Primary Project reduces behavior problems in children, which left unchecked, contribute to poor student outcomes. Social and emotional learning is a cornerstone for academic learning and Primary Project supports this emotional development," said Mary Anne Peabody, Ed.D., the program's director. "Children meet weekly with trained and supervised paraprofessionals, called child associates, in a playroom setting. Through play and a caring relationship with an adult, students gain confidence and social skills which then allow them to focus on academic learning."

The conference features workshops on program implementation as well as managing transitions, using data to improve programs, parent engagement, and the importance of relationships in our lives. The keynote speaker, Rebekah Crofford, Ph.D., LCSW-R, RPT-S, Associate Professor, Roberts Wesleyan College, will speak on the power of relationships in child development and resiliency. Crofford teaches social work at Roberts Wesleyan College and also serves as a counselor at the college's counseling center.

Attendees will enjoy a reception the evening of October 3 at the Woodcliff at 5:50 p.m. with elected officials, donors, and others who have support the program. In 2010, Primary Project and early intervention programs at Children's Institute were fully reinstated in the NYS budget thanks to the bi-partisan support of legislators across NYS, the Lt. Governor and Governor.

Over the past 55 years, Primary Project has served millions of children across the country and Toronto, ON, Canada. Children's Institute is a national charitable 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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