



For Immediate Release:
Tuesday, December 4, 2007

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Full Service Schools Awards Contract to Child Guidance Center

JACKSONVILLE, FL – Full Service Schools of Jacksonville, a community collaboration led by United Way of Northeast Florida, awarded Child Guidance Center the contract to serve as the mental health provider for its Sandalwood Family Resource Center. This is the sixth Full Service School site where the agency will provide outpatient mental health services and case management to the community.

The Sandalwood site will open in the first quarter of 2008 and will be located on the Southside of Jacksonville, providing services to nine schools: Sandalwood High School; Kernan Middle School; Landmark Middle School; Abess Park Elementary; Brookview Elementary; Kernan Trail Elementary; Lone Star Elementary; Southside Estates Elementary and Windy Hill Elementary. A grant from J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver will help support the expansion of Full Service Schools of Jacksonville in the Sandalwood area.

Child Guidance Center will receive \$230,000 annually to provide mental health counseling, family therapy, group counseling, parent engagement programming, solution-focused classroom management, and contracted domestic violence services. They plan to serve 1,358 individuals each year.

“Child Guidance Center is thrilled to be working with United Way of Northeast Florida on this special project,” said Dr. Veronica Valentine, CEO of the Child Guidance Center. “Our staff is really looking forward to working with the students and families in the Sandalwood neighborhood. Child Guidance Center wants to give them the support that they need to be successful in school and in life.”

Full Service Schools of Jacksonville, in partnership with the Jacksonville Children’s Commission, Duval County Health Department, Duval County Public Schools, Lucy Gooding Charitable Foundation Trust, J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver, and United Way of Northeast Florida, seeks to provide programs that remove barriers to a child’s academic success. Mentoring, individual and family counseling, case management and medical services are just a few of the offerings at Full Service Schools.

“United Way of Northeast Florida is proud to partner with the Child Guidance Center to serve the Sandalwood neighborhood,” said Connie Hodges, President, United Way of Northeast Florida. “Through their efforts and those of other partners, students and their families will be given the tools and opportunities to realize their potential to be successful.”

United Way of Northeast Florida works in partnership with volunteers, community organizations, and leaders to tackle critical issues facing children, youth, and families. United Way makes lasting changes that improve the lives of people in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and northern St. Johns counties. In addition, United Way leads United Way 2-1-1, a 24/7 information referral hotline; Life: Act 2, a proactive response to an exploding senior population; Full Service Schools, a community approach to removing barriers to academic success. For more information, call 904-390-3200 or visit www.aboutunitedway.org.

Founded in 1951, Child Guidance Center has been in existence for over 50 years. They are the largest provider of outpatient services in Northeast Florida for children and adolescents. They are nationally accredited at the highest level and have a full continuum of outpatient services including mental health counseling, psychiatric care, targeted case management, behavioral interventions, and other support programs for at-risk youth and families. For more information, call 904-448-4700 or go to www.childguidancecenter.org.

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