



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 26, 2006

Contact: Veronica Medina, Development Manager
(562) 692-0383 ext 268

First Annual Mental Health Symposium a great success!

Whittier, CA – The Intercommunity Child Guidance Center (ICGC) hosted the First Annual Mental Health Symposium, a professional development conference, on Wednesday, June 21, 2006 at the Radisson Hotel located at 7320 Greenleaf Avenue in Whittier, California. The event drew approximately 300 parents and professionals who came together to hear Dr. Daniel Siegel speak on the *Importance of Early Attachment: Relationships and Resilience in the Development of the Brain*. Dr. Siegel shared his groundbreaking research on interpersonal neurobiology, which explores the effects of early attachments between children and their caregivers and how these attachments lead to healthy brain development that promote emotional well-being and psychological resilience. Dr. Siegel is an award-winning educator who currently serves as Associate Clinical Professor for the Center for Culture, Brain and Development at UCLA School of Medicine. He is also Director of the Mindsight Institute, an educational organization focused on how the development of individuals, families and communities can be enhanced by examining the crossing point of human relationships and basic biological processes. Dr. Siegel is co-editor of a handbook of psychiatry and the author of numerous articles, chapters, and the internationally acclaimed text, *The Developing Mind: Toward a Neurobiology of Interpersonal Experience (1999)*.

Thanks to generous funding, ICGC was able to offer the course at no cost to parents and foster parents, elevating the Symposium to a forum of knowledge targeting individuals who are at the forefront of bringing about change and making a difference in their children's lives: parents. Charlene Dimas-Peinado, Executive Director said, "This event is a part of our long-term commitment to expanding

knowledge and understanding for parents and professionals in our communities. We remain dedicated to continuing our leadership of bringing subject matter experts to the eastern regions of Los Angeles County.”

The Symposium was made possible with sponsorships from The Atlas Family Foundation, Banco Popular, College Hospital, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, Kaiser Permanente, Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital and The Honorable Don Knabe, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, 4th District.

ICGC is dedicated to training the next generation of mental health professionals through conferences, training sessions, and its reputable Student Internship Program. Accredited by the Board of Behavioral Sciences, ICGC will continue to promote professional development through a series of trainings beginning January 2007. The fall of 2006 marks the agency’s 35th year as a clinical training agency for Master level Social Work students and Doctoral level Psychology students. Please visit www.intercommunity.org for further information on the 2007 training series and Student Internship Program.

Established in 1957, Intercommunity Child Guidance Center, a (501 (c)(3)) non-profit organization, has been providing comprehensive mental health and social services to children and their families. Developing healthy alternatives to abuse and violence, addressing emotional and behavioral challenges, results in healthy children, families and communities. ICGC is a professionally staffed mental health center for children and adolescents who experience psychological, developmental, behavioral, social or family problems. ICGC is located at 10155 Colima Rd., Whittier, California.

###