



RIVER OAK CENTER FOR CHILDREN

For Immediate Release
April 9, 2008

Contact: Emilia Godwin
(916) 609-5153
Email: egodwin@riveroak.org

RIVER OAK CENTER FOR CHILDREN IS NOT CLOSING!

SACRAMENTO, April 9, 2008 – River Oak Center for Children, a leading provider of mental health and social services to low-income emotionally and behaviorally challenged children and their families, is closing 2 of its programs – the Residential Treatment program and the Special Education School - BUT IS NOT CLOSING ITS DOORS for more than 800 children that are being served daily by the 14 programs the agency will continue to provide.

The closing of these 2 programs is dictated by declining governmental funding and the changes in Government policy, as well as the availability of other effective programs successfully serving these children in a family-based environment. Government policy determines how children with mental health needs are being served and we have no choice but comply.

The Treatment Complex (currently under construction) at the site of the Residential Campus will continue to serve vulnerable children needing professional mental health care and support. We are actively researching model programs to select the one that best meets community needs.

River Oak is continuing to operate 14 effective and well-funded programs at 4 sites in the Sacramento area which are producing life-changing results for children and their families.

Established in 1966, River Oak (www.riveroak.org) has grown from an organization of group homes to an agency reaching annually 2,000 emotionally and behaviorally challenged children and their families through 14 programs and services operating at 4 sites in the area. More than 200 professional and support staff make River Oak a safe place for children and families to grow. The agency's programs span from early intervention & prevention services for the youngest children living at home or in foster care and teens with behavioral challenges to outpatient counseling. A demonstration of its commitment to safety and high quality of client care is the accreditation and Gold Seal of Approval™ awarded to the agency by the Joint Commission, an honor rarely bestowed on non-profit organizations not affiliated with large hospital systems.