



For Immediate Release
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**RIVER OAK CENTER FOR CHILDREN TO RECEIVE DONATION FOR EFFORTS TO
PREVENT MENTAL ILLNESS IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS**

SACRAMENTO, December 4, 2009 – River Oak Center for Children, a nonprofit provider of mental health and social services for children, youth, and their families in Sacramento County, has been notified that it will receive a \$2,000 donation directed by Penelope Knapp, M.D., Medical Director of the California Department of Mental Health and Professor Emeritus at the University of California Davis, Department of Psychiatry and Pediatrics.

As the 2009 recipient of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry's (AACAP) Irving Philips Award for Prevention, Dr. Knapp received a \$2,000 donation to be given to the prevention program or center of her choice. Dr. Knapp selected River Oak in honor of her extensive history of professional collaboration with the agency. For example, River Oak has partnered with the California Department of Mental Health on the Infant Preschool Family Mental Health Initiative, piloting new mental health services for children 0-5 and their families. In addition, River Oak has served as a core training site for child psychiatry residents at the University of California Davis, and Dr. Knapp currently teaches Therapeutic Preschool groups, a Head Start program, at River Oak.

“We are deeply grateful to receive this generous donation from Dr. Knapp,” said Mary Hargrave, President and Chief Executive Officer of River Oak. “She is most deserving of the AACAP award for her invaluable contributions to the prevention of mental illness in children and adolescents. Thanks in part to years of collaboration with Dr. Knapp, River Oak has developed and implemented innovative and strength-based services that have bettered the lives of thousands of children, youth, and their families each year.”

Since 1966, River Oak Center for Children (www.riveroak.org) has helped children and youth who need support, coaching, and treatment to thrive at school, at home, and in the community. Through evidence-based programs, River Oak strengthens close to 2,000 at-risk children and families each year to manage life's challenges and achieve their full potential.

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