



For Immediate Release
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TRANSITION AGE YOUTH TO MAKE LEADERSHIP PRESENTATION WITH AT&T FOUNDATION SUPPORT

SACRAMENTO, May 4, 2010 – A \$10,000 contribution from the AT&T Foundation is supporting leadership development in low-income, transition age youth ages 13-18 receiving services at River Oak Center for Children.

The funding enabled the purchase of computers, digital cameras and other technology necessary for youth to make a multi-media presentation on their experiences as mental health consumers at the Youth In Mind Leadership Academy and Annual Meeting, to be held on May 4-7, 2010 near Monterey, California. To view a short video clip of their presentation, please visit www.riveroak.org/youthinfocus.html. Each year, Youth In Mind holds a gathering for young mental health consumers and their family and friends at the California Mental Health Advocates for Children and Youth Conference. The conference offers youth-led workshops on topics important to youth, their friends, families and adult allies; public speaking opportunities; art and dance; and the chance to make new friends.

The teens making the presentation are part of a transition age youth group at River Oak that engages and empowers youth receiving mental health services through the agency. The group is conducting a survey of all youth 12-21 receiving treatment at River Oak, to inform the agency's clinical practice and provide insight into how to become an increasingly youth-friendly organization. Additionally, the teens host their own youth events and hold weekly team meetings at locations throughout Sacramento.

“We are thrilled to have received this generous support from AT&T,” said Dr. Mary Hargrave, President and CEO of River Oak. “Coming from low-income families, access to technology often is limited for the children and youth River Oak serves. The equipment purchased with AT&T support has

exposed our teens to technology, enhanced their self-esteem and self-confidence, and developed leadership ability – qualities that will increase their chances of success in school and in life.”

“We’re proud to support innovative education programs that inspire and enrich the lives of young people in our community – especially those most at-risk,” said Kathy McKim, AT&T Vice President of External Affairs – Sacramento. “AT&T salutes River Oak Center for Children and the great work they are doing to provide much-needed support, counseling and learning opportunities for Sacramento area youth.”

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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