

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT:

Gary Lazenby, M.S.Ed., CAS
Education Consultant
Children's Institute, Inc.
(585) 295-1000, ext. 226
glazenby@childrensinstitute.net

Children's Institute Symposium to Address Social and Emotional Learning and Improving Children's Behavior

Rochester, New York, November 17-18, 2008 – Mark T. Greenberg, Ph.D., national leader in Social and Emotional Learning and co-developer of the Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (*PATHS*) Curriculum, will be hosted by Children's Institute for a two-day symposium. More than 200 school administrators, counselors, teachers and community members from across the greater Rochester area are expected to attend.

Featured speaker at the symposium is Mark T. Greenberg, Ph.D., Professor of Human Development and Psychology at Pennsylvania State University and Director of the Prevention Research Center for the Promotion of Human Development. Dr. Greenberg co-developed the PATHS Program in the early 1980s for use with deaf children. Designed to be taught and integrated into elementary teaching, it is now used in thousands of classrooms around the world. This evidence-based program has earned "Model Program" recognition from the US Department of Health and Human Services and the US Department of Justice.

Many educators view social and emotional learning as a way to build community and lower suspension rates, while promoting students' academic skills. One such program currently being implemented in the Greater Rochester community is PATHS. Its effectiveness has been studied for over twenty years; among other findings, the program has demonstrated a decrease in students' aggression and an increase in students' ability to identify feelings, problem solve and focus.

Locally, "PATHS has helped us to turn around our referral and suspension rate," said Robert Kuter, Principal of Pinnacle School #35 in the Rochester City School District. "The PATHS program has made a difference in the overall school climate at School #35. We have devoted time using the PATHS curriculum to teach children the importance of self control, emotional understanding, how to develop self esteem, build relationships and develop interpersonal problem solving skills. We are pleased with the evidence of the social and emotional growth of our students."

Dr. Greenberg's lecture, "*School Based Social and Emotional Learning: Current Status and Future Challenges*," at the School of the Arts, Monday, November 17 at 5:15 pm is open to all. The lecture, which is also being supported by NYS Student Support Services and the Rochester City School District, will be preceded by an hors d'oeuvres reception at 4:30 pm. The cost for



274 N. Goodman Street, Suite D103 • Rochester, New York 14607
(585) 295-1000 (phone) • (585) 295-1090 (fax) • (877) 888-7647 (toll-free)
www.childrensinstitute.net

both reception and lecture is \$15 and tickets are available in advance, by calling 295-1000 or via www.childrensinstitute.net, or at the door.

Tuesday morning, November 18, Dr. Greenberg will speak with an invited audience of school and community leaders at the American Association of University Women, 494 East Avenue, Rochester, regarding ways they can work to improve social and emotional learning in children.

Children's Institute helps schools to implement PATHS. With two national PATHS trainers on staff, Children's Institute has provided consultation and training to 18 elementary schools in the Rochester City School District, and to schools in Greece and Rush-Henrietta, as well as to child-centered organizations in the greater Rochester community and around the nation, Canada and the Caribbean. Children's Institute has also adapted the PATHS curriculum for use with special education populations and after-school programs.

Children's Institute is a national not-for-profit organization based in Rochester. Its mission is to strengthen children's social and emotional health. Through sound research and evaluation, Children's Institute develops and promotes effective prevention and early intervention programs, materials and best practices for children, families, schools and communities.

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