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Child Abuse Prevention Services Receives Grant to Expand Its *What's Up? Girl Talk* Bully Prevention Program for Middle School Girls into Long Island Elementary Schools

Long Island Fund for Women & Girls supports program for adolescent girls aimed at reducing the incidence of relational and physical aggression, bullying and harassment.

ROSLYN, NY– Child Abuse Prevention Services (CAPS) is pleased to announce that it was selected as a grant recipient by the Long Island Fund for Women & Girls (LIFWG). The grant specifically supports one of CAPS' prevention-through-education programs, *What's Up? Girl Talk*—a bully-prevention workshop originally developed for 7th and 8th grade girls that will be expanded to include a component for 5th and 6th grade girls. Thanks to the generosity of LIFWG and other sources, the program will continue to be offered to Long Island schools at no cost.

"*What's Up? Girl Talk* helps girls overcome the stereotypes of 'mean girls' and is in demand more than ever by schools to address the issue," said Alane Fagin, Executive Director. "We are so grateful to LIFWG for recognizing the importance of the program and for their generous gift of support."

What's Up? Girl Talk consists of facilitated discussion and activities by a professionally-trained CAPS volunteer, and is conducted in small groups in schools. The one-hour workshop defines and explores the impact of relational and physical aggression on girls' friendships with one another, and teaches them how to develop skills of open and honest communication. CAPS' other prevention-through-education programs for school-age children address the prevention of bullying, child abuse and neglect, sexual harassment, date rape and Web-based threats and teach kids strategies on how to stay safe.

The LIFWG grant also includes updating the parent component to *What's Up? Girl Talk.* The program is currently available for presentation to parent groups of elementary and middle school-age girls.

Founded in 1982, Child Abuse Prevention Services is Long Island's leading resource on the prevention of child abuse and neglect and bullying, and on Internet safety. It is a non-profit organization underwritten by private donations, grants and legislative appropriations. Information about programs, educational materials and volunteer opportunities is available at *www.capsli.org* or by calling 516-621-0552 or 631-289-3240.

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PHOTO CAPTION: Stephanie Gross, a Child Abuse Prevention Services Volunteer Presenter leads a discussion among 7th grade girls about bully prevention during a *What's Up? Girl Talk* workshop—offered at no cost to Long Island middle schools.