



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 18, 2009

Contact: Alane Fagin or Donna Cattano
516-621-0552 or 631-289-3240

Child Abuse Prevention Services Introduces *cyberSMARTZ* Internet Safety Program to Long Island Elementary Students

The new Internet safety workshop teaches 10 and 11 year olds responsible online behavior

ROSLYN, NY – Child Abuse Prevention Services (CAPS) has developed a new Internet safety program for 5th graders called *cyberSMARTZ*, and is now offering the workshop at no cost to all elementary schools in Nassau and Suffolk counties. CAPS is Long Island's leading organization dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect, and provides in-classroom, youth violence prevention and child safety education to all Long Island schools at no cost.

"We need to work more with students to encourage civility, empathy and compassion in their online and digital communications," said Alane Fagin, Executive Director of CAPS. "CAPS' Internet safety programs were developed to teach kids responsible online behavior so they do no harm to themselves or to others. The important lesson for them is to think before they click."

Thanks, in part, to a grant from The Verizon Foundation, and facilitation of the program in students' classrooms by CAPS professionally-trained volunteers, CAPS can provide *cyberSMARTZ* to Long Island public and private elementary schools at no cost.

"CAPS relies on our dedicated corps of volunteers to present *cyberSMARTZ* as well as our other prevention-through-education programs," said Ms. Fagin, "but the growing demand by Long Island schools also means a greater need for additional volunteers to join our organization. In fact just this past semester, CAPS was asked to present in more than 1,500 classrooms to over 37,000 students, grades K-12, so we encourage people who have an interest in working with children to learn more about volunteering for CAPS."

Founded in 1982, the Roslyn-based Child Abuse Prevention Services is dedicated to the prevention of child abuse, bullying, cyber-bullying, peer harassment, sexual harassment, date/acquaintance rape, and Internet safety through education in the classroom. It is a non-profit underwritten by private donations, grants and legislative appropriations. Information about programs, educational materials and volunteer opportunities are available at www.capsli.org or by calling 516-621-0552 or 631-289-3240.

####