



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 20, 2009

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

Child Abuse Prevention Services Introduces a New Program to Help Long Island Tween Girls Cope with the Ups and Downs of Friendships

ROSLYN, NY – Helping tween girls understand what makes a great friend, how to develop healthy friendships, and learn how to keep them are the premises behind *Friendship Matters*, a new bully prevention workshop for 5th and 6th grade girls developed by Child Abuse Prevention Services (CAPS)—Long Island’s leading resource on violence prevention and child safety education. The workshop will be available to all Long Island elementary and middle schools this September at no cost.

“CAPS’ mission of keeping kids safe also applies to their friendships,” said Alane Fagin, Executive Director of CAPS. “For girls, ages 9 to 12, friends can provide them with shelter and protection from the social minefields that exist at school. *Friendship Matters* will help them view their social relationships from a new perspective, and expand their repertoire of tools to cope with the inevitable ups and downs of friendships.”

Using brainstorming, reflection and role play, this one-hour workshop (limited to 12 girls per group), includes discussion on girls’ expectations of friendship, the challenges of feeling left out, choosing and making new friends, the issue of popularity, and recognizing their inner strengths as well as the external resources in their lives. The workshops are facilitated by professionally-trained CAPS volunteers.

Friendship Matters is supported by the *Long Island Fund for Women and Girls*. It is among the many K-12 developmentally-appropriate prevention-through-education programs that CAPS offers to public and private schools in Nassau and Suffolk counties at no cost. To date, over 600,000 students have participated in programs that deal on the issues of bullying, cyber-bullying and Internet safety, child abuse and neglect, relational aggression, date/acquaintance rape and sexual harassment.

CAPS also offers parents prevention education. *What’s Up With My Daughter?* helps parents explore strategies to help their daughters navigate through their social relationships during the challenging tween years.

Founded in 1982, the Roslyn-based Child Abuse Prevention Services is Long Island’s comprehensive resource center for the prevention of child abuse, bullying and peer harassment. It is a non-profit organization underwritten by private donations, grants and legislative appropriations. Information about student and parent programs and volunteer opportunities are available at www.capsli.org or by calling 516-621-0552 or 631-289-3240.

####