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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Crisis Intervention for Haitian Community is a Phone Call Away
The Child Center of NY's Ethnically Diverse Staff Stands Ready to Assist**

Queens, NY, January 2010 – The devastating effect of the earthquake in Haiti continues to traumatize hundreds, if not thousands of loved ones living in our area -- home to the largest population of Haitian descent outside of Port-au-Prince. To help children and families of the city's grieving Haitian community cope with devastation and uncertainty, The Child Center of NY has mobilized its Haitian and Creole-speaking staff to provide immediate crisis intervention.

"It is crucial," says Sandra Hagan, The Center's Executive Director, "for families having young children who are struggling with disruption and loss to recognize any behavioral changes and seek short term treatment before they escalate. These may include nightmares and other sleep disturbances, separation fears and clinging to caregivers, anxieties about death and frequent complaints of stomach aches and headaches."

The Child Center's crisis counselors are expertly trained to focus on minimizing stress, providing the child with emotional support and improving their coping skills. This type of intervention is intended to be brief, generally lasting for a period of no longer than a few months. Both community workshops and one-on-one counseling are available in English and Haitian-Creole for Queens families with children. For more information, please call 718-651-7770, Ext. 202.

About The Child Center of NY

For more than 50 years, The Child Center has reached across diverse ethnic populations to transform the lives of more than a quarter million children in the margins. It intervenes before parental anxiety turns to child abuse, mentors fatherless teenagers at its after school programs, and provides therapy for children suffering from trauma and depression. Today, The Center serves more than 16,500 children annually -- from birth through early adulthood -- in more than 80 locations and in 35 different languages. Please visit the website at www.childcenterny.org to learn more about its important work.

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