



**For Immediate Release**

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## **CGE Awarded SAMHSA Trauma Grant**

**Somerset, NJ** - The Center for Great Expectations ("CGE") has received formal notification of a federal grant award to become a **Category III Community Treatment and Services (CTS) Center** under the **National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative**. This 5 year grant will enhance the delivery of evidence-based, trauma-focused treatment and services to both CGE clients and improve access to these services for New Jersey families that have been exposed to traumatic experiences.

"CGE is honored to be selected as part of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN). We are excited to collaborate with other members regionally and nationally to train, develop and promote effective trauma treatment and services for this vulnerable population," shared Dr. Debbie Ruisard, CGE's Clinical Director.

This annual \$400,000 grant, awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration ("SAMHSA") of the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, commences September 30, 2016 and is renewable for an additional four years. CGE's "*Trauma Focused Care Project*" will initially implement evidence-based trauma treatment *Attachment, Self-Regulation, and Competency (ARC) Model* in its programs, and then facilitate state wide training in ARC, with the goal of building a network of trauma-informed providers that will improve outcomes for New Jersey families involved in the child welfare system.

"As a recognized provider of trauma-informed care to New Jersey's homeless, pregnant and parenting women and adolescents with involvement in the child welfare system, CGE today provides a Continuum of Care that addresses the trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) that so often result in addiction, homelessness, and mental health disorders," said Peg Wright, CGE President/CEO. "This funding will allow us to refine and share our expertise in trauma-informed care, providing greater access to New Jersey's children, adolescents and families who have experienced traumatic events."

The Center for Great Expectations currently operates a Continuum of Care that includes two Residential Treatment Centers with an on-site Child Development Center, Katy's Place; Outpatient and Intensive Outpatient Treatment Programs; and Supportive Housing. CGE's organizational *Nurtured Heart Approach*® provides a safe environment for each client to individually benefit from an innovative treatment modality that combines trauma-informed care and Parent-Infant Mental Health, for the best possible outcomes for both parent and child. With this enhancement of trauma-informed services, CGE continues its commitment to "breaking the cycle" of trauma, addiction and homelessness.

To reach Dr. Debra Ruisard, call (732) 247-7003 x30. To learn more about the Center and the vulnerable population it serves, visit their website at [www.cge-nj.org](http://www.cge-nj.org), call 732-247-7003 Ext. 33, or email [info@cge-nj.org](mailto:info@cge-nj.org).

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