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WEDGWOOD
CHRISTIAN SERVICES
transforming lives one child at a time

COUNSELING CENTER

 InterActive
studio

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WEDGWOOD CHRISTIAN SERVICES TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF
10,000-SQUARE-FOOT COUNSELING CENTER**

*New center will house all specialized prevention,
counseling and education services under one roof*

(KENTWOOD, Mich.) Sept. 9, 2009 – Wedgwood Christian Services (www.wedgwood.org) today announced plans to begin construction of a 10,000-square-foot counseling center at its newly remodeled and enhanced Kentwood campus, following yesterday's site plan approval from the City of Kentwood Planning Commission. Construction is scheduled to begin in October.

The center will house all of Wedgwood's specialized prevention, counseling and educational services. Wedgwood's counseling services are available to families and children, and include foster care and independent living counseling, in-home intervention and outpatient counseling as well as substance abuse and sexual abuse counseling.

"The number of children and families served by Wedgwood's counseling services is continually increasing," said Wedgwood President and CEO Sam Beals. "The center will bring all of our specialized counseling services under one roof, enhancing our focus and ability to meet the fast growing demand for services that will help children and families rebuild their lives and strengthen their social, emotional, relational and spiritual health."

The center will be located next to the Huizenga Administration Building on Wedgwood's campus at 3300 36th St., and is the final step in Wedgwood's successful \$8.5 million *Building Hope for Children* capital campaign. In the past 18 months, Wedgwood has built five new buildings, remodeled eight existing structures and renovated its grounds in an effort to ensure that they can meet the demand for services in the coming years.

In 2008, Wedgwood's continuum of services touched the lives of nearly 15,250 troubled children and families. According to Beals, the 49-year-old, nonprofit organization expects its client base to more than double within the next five years. Even with the most difficult cases, Wedgwood's annual success rate is 85 percent for advancing children out of secured residential treatment, well above the 70 percent state standard, he said.

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Founded in 1960, Wedgwood provides specialized prevention, education, community-based and residential treatment services to children and teens suffering from the devastating effects of physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse and neglect.

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Wedgwood Christian Services is one of Michigan's most regarded experts for helping troubled youth and is dedicated to aggressively taking on the toughest problems facing them today, including physical and sexual abuse, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, school expulsions and more. For more information, visit www.wedgwood.org.