



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Target Partners with Center for Child Protection to Provide Emergency Funds for Abused Children

**AUSTIN, Texas—March 13, 2007**—The Center for Child Protection today announced receiving a \$5,000 grant from Target for sponsorship of emergency funds to help child abuse victims in crisis. The Emergency Funds' prompt availability eliminates the frustrating and dangerous delays that families may encounter when navigating the social service system. The resources given make a long-term impact by assisting parents or caregivers in being protective and help children feel safe.

Emergency funds have provided car seats and beds for caregivers who have chosen to become guardians of their relatives' abused children, deadbolt locks to keep children safe from perpetrators of violence, and clothes for a child who must make an appearance in court to testify against an abuser. It has allowed the Center to give bus passes to mothers with no means of transportation to enable them to make the long journey across town to keep counseling appointments for their children.

"The Center for Child Protection is proud to be involved in expanding the help available to children," said Sandra Martin, CEO for the Center for Child Protection. "The generous grant from Target will ensure that abused children and their families are given tools to meet life's challenges and the opportunity for their lives to be restored. Few gifts will make as much of an impact on our community as this one can."

In 2006, 1,407 children received services from the Center for Child Protection. More than 8,069 children have been interviewed at the Center since 1992 because they made an outcry of sexual or physical abuse or because children had witnessed acts of violence.

This sponsorship is part of the ongoing support Target provides to local communities throughout the country. Every week Target gives more than \$2 million to strengthen families and

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communities across the nation, with a focus on education, the arts, social services and other vital community partnerships.

“At Target, we are making a real difference every day through our sponsorship program,” said Laysha Ward, vice president, community relations, Target. “We’re proud to partner with the Center for Child Protection as part of our ongoing commitment to give back to the communities where our guests and team members live and work.”

Additionally, Target also gives back through signature programs that are designed to inspire learning in children and families. Programs include:

- Take Charge of Education<sup>®</sup>, a school fundraising program;
- Ready. Sit. Read!, a program dedicated to fostering a life-long love of reading in children;
- Start Something<sup>®</sup>, a partnership between Target and the Tiger Woods Foundation, which helps kids build core values;
- Target House, which serves as a home-away-from-home for families of children receiving life-saving treatment at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis; and
- Target Volunteers, team members and retirees who annually donate more than 315,000 hours of time to more than 7,000 community-based projects.

### **About the Center for Child Protection**

The Center for Child Protection, a nationally accredited children’s advocacy center, is the first stop for children entering the criminal justice system because of suspected sexual abuse, serious physical abuse and for children who have witnessed a violent crime. The Center is a child-friendly, specially equipped facility where children and their caregivers go for evidence gathering, forensic medical exams, counseling and intervention during the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases. All services are provided free of charge.

The Center for Child Protection serves as the community representative to the Child Protection Team (CPT). The Child Protection Team is a public collaboration established in 1989 to more effectively and quickly coordinate the investigation and care for abused children and their families to reduce child re-victimization and promote healing. Other team members include the Travis County District Attorney’s Office, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Children’s Hospital of Austin, Austin Police Department, Travis County Sheriff’s Office, Austin Independent School District Police Department, Pflugerville Police Department, Jonestown Police Department, Lakeway Police Department, Cedar Park Police Department, Leander Police Department, Sunset Valley Police Department, Lago Vista Police Department, Manor Police Department, Rollingwood Police Department, Bee Cave Police Department, West Lake Hills Police Department, and Mustang Ridge Police Department. For more information, please call 512-472-1164 or visit [www.centerforchildprotection.org](http://www.centerforchildprotection.org).

### **Target**

Target gives back more than \$2 million a week to its local communities through grants and special programs. Since opening its first store in 1962, Target has partnered with nonprofit organizations, guests and team members to help meet community needs. Additionally, Target team members and retirees donate more than 315,000 hours to more than 7,000 projects each year.

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