



THE GRODEN NETWORK

Marketing & Development Department
610 Manton Avenue
Providence, Rhode Island 02909
401-274-6310 · FAX 401-421-6397
www.grodencenter.org

PRESS RELEASE **January 29, 2007**

Contacts:

Lee Beliveau
Phone: (401) 274-6310 x 1230
Cell: (401) 499-0431

Melissa Harris
Phone: (401) 274-6310 x 1271

GRODEN CENTER AWARDED \$10,000 GRANT FROM THE FLUTIE FOUNDATION

Providence, RI – January 29, 2007 – Everyone wants to be on Doug Flutie’s team. Since 2000, the Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation has provided support and education to families facing childhood autism. Over 150 applications from across New England, New York, New Jersey and Southern California were submitted to the Foundation’s 2006 grant funding cycle. The Groden Center, Inc. was one of only twenty-six grants awarded, and the only Rhode Island recipient.

The Groden Center was awarded \$10,000 to assist with a respite program that will reach 15 families affected by autism. The grant is designed to offer 36 hours of respite services to each family over the duration of the grant year. Although respite services are currently provided in Rhode Island, their extent and accessibility is limited in scope and funding. Only a very small percentage of young children with special needs receive respite services. The Groden Center’s grant helps address the need to provide consistent, on-going respite for families of children on the autism spectrum.

Families of children with developmental disabilities experience not only the stresses of everyday life, but also the unique stressors of having a child with special needs. “We recognize that this added stress can be potentially devastating to families. However, it has also been observed that the slightest relief can ‘revive’ them”, said Dr. June Groden, Co-Executive Director of the Groden Network. “Respite has been identified as one way to minimize the high stress levels that these families endure, thus enabling them to maintain their child at home. Furthermore, families of children with disabilities identify it as their number one need,” Groden concluded.

All family members benefit from the provision of regularly scheduled respite. Parents are assured that trained personnel are caring for their child in a safe environment, while they have the opportunity for planned time alone. Siblings, who often feel neglected because of the time and energy needed to care for a disabled child, will be able to look forward to quality time spent with their parents. In addition, the child involved in respite will enjoy a fun evening under the care of a trained professional.

For more information about the Groden Center's respite services, or the Groden Network's research, treatment, educational and residential programs for children and adults with autism and other related developmental disabilities, visit the Groden Center website at www.grodencenter.org or call 401-274-6310.

The Groden Network is the leading non-profit organization in Rhode Island providing evaluative, therapeutic and educational programs for children and adults with autism and related developmental disabilities. Comprised of the Groden Center, the Cove Center, the Halcyon Center and Kingston Hill Academy, the Network provides services to over 800 clients. The Groden Center provides day, residential and vocational programs for children and adolescents with autism and related developmental disabilities. The Cove Center provides day, residential and vocational programs for adults with developmental disabilities. The Halcyon Center provides residential and vocational support programs for adults in Southeastern Massachusetts. Kingston Hill Academy, a public charter school, is dedicated to the Groden Network's mission of individualized learning plans for all students.

#