



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CHRISTIAN FAMILY COUNSELING PARTNERS
WITH WELS COMMITTEE ON RELIEF**

April 14, 2010 (MILWAUKEE)— Through a partnership with the WELS Committee on Relief and a grant of \$5,000, 10 therapists from WLCFS Christian Family Counseling were trained in a crisis response model called Comprehensive Acute Traumatic Stress Management (CATSM).

On February 26-27, 2010, therapists gathered at The Gardens of Hartford for the training led by Dr. Sam Bernard from the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress. Dr. Bernard is a Nationally Certified Psychologist and Certified Traumatologist. He provides crisis response training for civilian and military groups and is involved in numerous crisis-related organizations in the United States.

The CATSM model that the therapists were trained in addresses traumatic stress before, during, and after a crisis. CATSM's fundamental goal is to keep people functioning and mitigate long-term emotional suffering. The model offers "practical tools" for addressing the wide spectrum of traumatic experiences—from mild to severe.

The training was also customized to include practice scenarios providing video-assisted crisis counseling as this will be a primary approach Christian Family Counseling staff will use while responding for the WELS Committee on Relief.

Along with the CATSM training, Christian Family Counseling staff has also begun the National Incident Management System (NIMS) training courses offered online through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). NIMS is a system that provides a consistent nationwide approach to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity. This training includes approximately eight hours of online training and is offered through FEMA at no cost.

WLCFS (Wisconsin Lutheran Child & Family Service, Inc.) has been healing and helping people in need through the ministry of Jesus Christ since 1965. Headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, WLCFS is a not-for-profit organization that owns and operates a continuum of senior care facilities and six Christian Family Counseling offices throughout Wisconsin.

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