

News Release

30th August 2010

Hedge Funds Care Assists the Cays Foundation with its Family Reunification Programme

George Town, Grand Cayman - In May 2010, the Cayman Chapter of Hedge Funds Care (HFC) announced that the Children and Youth Services (CAYS) Foundation was to be awarded a grant to fund their *Family Reunification Programme*. HFC went to visit them to find out what progress has been made since the grant was awarded.

The CAYS Foundation was established as a not-for-profit Government owned company to manage and operate two residential homes on Grand Cayman; Bonaventure Boys' Home and Frances Bodden Girls' Home. The two facilities serve children and youths between the ages of 11 and 17 who are at risk and deemed to be in need of care and protection. The *Family Reunification Programme* is designed to strengthen vulnerable families during the transitional period when a child is being returned home from the residential programme and to provide support to the family once the child has been discharged from care.

CAYS, were awarded \$45,000 and were among six grantees to receive funding. Angela Sealey, Chief Executive Officer at CAYS said "We are extremely excited about implementing this new programme as it will provide us with the opportunity to formally assist with reintegration of the child back into their home environment. If we can improve the success rate of reintegration then the chances of the child or any of their siblings ending up in protective custody will be greatly reduced."

The HFC grant has in part made it possible to recruit a dedicated Family Support Worker, Ms. Janet Ham. In her role, she is responsible for assisting the families build better family relations and improve their understanding and appreciation of the aims of the work undertaken during the child's stay in care. She then works with the families to assess the key strengths of the family unit and build on those strengths whilst integrating the child back into the home environment through phased day and overnight visits. She works with a team of professionals, which include a Social Worker, Case Manager and Residential Support Workers, all responsible for collectively determining whether the child has reached a stage in the programme where they can be considered for permanent reintegration.

Ms. Ham has been employed with the CAYS Foundation since February 2009 and has a BA in Sociology and Religious Studies from the University of Toronto and Christian Education Diploma from Ewart College, Canada. She worked within a Church setting for six years with youths and families, developing and implementing programmes to meet their needs. Prior to this, she spent eighteen years with the Board of Education as an Attendance Counselor/Truant Officer, working with students who struggled with social, emotional, psychological and behavioural issues. In this role, she met regularly with families within their homes and conducted parenting workshops to help parents address their specific challenges. She said "As part of the *Reunification Programme*, I enjoy being allowed to go into the homes of families to work alongside them, attempting to help their children overcome problems, as well as assisting them with making changes both personally and to the home environment. My greatest joy is seeing parents make positive steps in overcoming the challenges they face. Many of our youths have parents who themselves, have had difficulties growing up and a number of them are being raised by their grandparents".

Ms. Ham added "The biggest challenge is getting families to press through the hard work of change and getting them to attend group sessions". There is currently no law in place that requires families to attend family support group meetings or group counselling sessions; nothing that ensures their accountability. As well as working with the children in care, we really want to work towards a partnership with the families and see this as a key preventative measure for other children in the family unit being taken into care further downstream."

Sealey added “Traditionally, without the *Reunification Programme*, we have looked for a window of opportunity to send the child home. This new programme slows this process down, as returning children home requires intensive, family-centred services to support a safe and stable family. The programme has also allowed for the families to have a thorough understanding of CAYS expectations which has increased the success rate for reintegration.”

Since its inception in May 2008, the CAYS Foundation has assisted twelve families.

One of the main approaches used in the *Reunification Programme* is therapeutic visitation. This provides an opportunity for parents to spend time with their children while the child is pressing towards reunification. Each therapeutic visitation is supervised by the Family Support Worker, who works with the parents and caregiver to develop guidelines and goals for the visits. Goals are designed to assure basic safety, identify and develop parents’ strengths, ameliorate any parenting concerns identified by the Social Worker and present parents with the opportunity to demonstrate improvement that will increase their chances for successful reunification.

The key characteristics of the programme include:

- Working with the family inside the home during the period towards and during reunification of the child
- Provision of both concrete services and counselling, with emphasis on techniques that change behaviours and responses among family members
- Modelling discipline and behaviour strategies
- Providing coaching and mentoring of parents
- Contact with the family within 24 hours of a crisis

Moving forward, CAYS are looking to produce a Reunification Manual which will be an easily accessible tool, providing written objectives and guidelines to parents following the child’s return to the family home. The aim of the Manual is to help the child and family achieve and maintain at any given time, their optimal level of reconnection from full re-

entry of the child into the family system to other forms of contact such as visitation that affirms their child's membership in his/her family.

For more information on how you can contribute to HFC, contact Claire Lloyd-Hickey at claire.lloyd-hickey@ogier.com

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Photo Caption: From Left: Ms Janet Ham, CAYS Foundation's Family Support Worker with Chief Executive Officer, Ms Angela Sealey,

Notes to Editors:

About Hedge Funds Care

Hedge fund industry professionals established Hedge Funds Care (HFC), a charitable organisation focused on assisting young victims of abuse in 1998. Since that time, chapters have opened in New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Atlanta, Boston, Denver, Toronto, Cayman and London. The targeted groups for the organisation include those organisations with interests in hedge funds, including investment managers, investors, prime brokers, attorneys, accountants, administrators and information providers. Since its inception, Hedge Funds Care has distributed over \$21 million through more than 600 grants.

Money raised is distributed locally to community-based non-profit organisations that address child abuse in the following ways:

- **EDUCATION** - to enhance awareness and understanding of abuse and neglect for children, parents and professionals in the community
- **PREVENTION** - services to at-risk children and families

- **TREATMENT** - for children who have been physically or sexually abused and support services to non-offending family members
- **RESEARCH** - on best practices in child welfare
- **ADVOCACY** - to improve child welfare
- **TRAINING** - to equip paraprofessionals and professionals to provide child abuse prevention and treatment services

The Cayman Committee of Hearts has representation by Ogier, Appleby, Butterfield Bank, CIBC, Citco, Deloitte, dms Management, Ernst & Young, KPMG, Maples and Calder, PWC, Rawlinson and Hunter, UBS and Walkers.

For more information on Hedge Funds Care visit www.hedgefundscare.org

About CAYS

The Children & Youth Services (CAYS) Foundation is a not-for-profit government owned company. The organisation is dedicated to empowering youths and their families, who are experiencing difficulties achieving their human potential.

CAYS provides a continuum of care through its programmes, namely Bonaventure Boys' Home and Frances Bodden Girls' Home in a caring and nurturing environment, in partnership with other agencies throughout the private and public sectors.

The Foundation offers 24 hour residential care to children that are placed by the Court on various Court Orders. Wherever possible, parents attend counselling to ensure that the youths' relationships with their parents or guardians are maintained and fostered, thereby facilitating reintegration to the family home.