

### **For Immediate Release**

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**TORONTO – November 21, 2012** - Child Development Institute's (CDI) Director of Scientific & Program Development, Dr. Leena Augimeri has been awarded the 2012 Elizabeth Manson Award for Community Service in Children's Mental Health.

This award honours Elizabeth Manson's dedication to the promotion of children's mental health through her position as Director of the Telepsychiatry Program at the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) in Toronto. Telepsychiatry is a consultation program, conducted through high quality video conferencing, with a doctor in one location and the patient in another. The program at Sick Kids includes working from a clinical perspective with children and families at risk, building skills of local doctors and mental health workers in areas outside of Toronto through a range of programs, consultations and developing guidelines for telepsychiatry and qualitative research.

The purpose of the award is to recognize an outstanding person who has been instrumental in the development of new treatment approaches, creative program design, or administrative innovations or who has been recognized as consistently providing superior quality care to children and families affected by mental health problems. It is presented annually to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the improvement of children's mental health in the community by the Department of Psychiatry, The Hospital for Sick Children

Dr. Augimeri is the co-creator of CDI's world renowned, evidence based SNAP® (Stop Now And Plan) Program. Developed at Child Development Institute in Toronto and scientifically tested, independently evaluated and meticulously refined over the past 27 years, the SNAP® program addresses destructive behaviours in children under 12 by giving them and their families the behaviour management tools needed to deal effectively with self-control and problem solving issues by learning how to stop and think about solutions in order make problems smaller, not bigger.

Dr. Augimeri says that "Mental Health impacts all of us and awareness and acceptance is vital. We know 1 in 5 children under age 19 suffer with mental health issues; in Ontario alone that represents thousands of children. I hope we will continue building more bridges between our services, that every child has someone important in their life, that the world is a kinder more thoughtful place, that evidence based practice is the norm, and we all understand the importance of relationships and 'repair'. I am one of the lucky ones -- being part of CDI for the past 27 years - working with amazing children and families, incredible clinicians, researchers, and world renowned experts within a scientist practitioner model every day with our SNAP model is so rewarding!"

Child Development Institute (CDI) is a community-based agency in Toronto with a 100-year history of service to children and families providing programs for children's mental health, early learning, and services for children who have suffered family violence and sexual abuse. CDI's focus on social innovation has led to the development of several programs designed to meet social needs that lead to greater engagement within our communities and strengthen civil society.

In 2005, CDI was awarded the first-ever national award for outstanding research and evaluation in child welfare by the Child Welfare League of Canada. SNAP® was also given the highest effectiveness designation in 2006 by the U.S. White House program, "Helping America's Youth" and recognized for its highest rating in evidence-based programs in 2007 by the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. In 2008, the National Crime Prevention Centre designated SNAP® as a "model" crime prevention program, in 2011 the Public Health Agency of Canada selected SNAP® as a Canadian Violence Prevention Best Practice and this year CDI's SNAP® Under 12 Outreach Program (ORP) was endorsed by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and added to their Crime Solutions effort as an Effective Program.

- 30 -

Child Development Institute is a respected research based National leader providing a range of mental health, early learning and family violence services for children under the age of 12 and their families. CDI is a leader in child and youth programming because of its breadth of services and emphasis on social innovation and evidence based programs.

Media contact: Shauna Klein, Director Fund Development, Marketing & Communications 416-603-1827 x2291

[sklein@childdevelop.ca](mailto:sklein@childdevelop.ca) [www.childdevelop.ca](http://www.childdevelop.ca)