

For Immediate Release:

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WillMar Center Welcomes Executive Director

The Board of Directors of WillMar Center for Bereaved Children has hired Patti Link Cawood as its new Executive Director, effective August 12, 2009. Patti brings to WillMar ten years of non-profit management and fundraising experience, with an emphasis on providing strategic direction and enhancing revenue generation. For six years she was associated with STAND! Against Domestic Violence in Concord, first as Fundraising Manager and later adding Special Projects Manager to her position responsibilities. She also served as Major Gifts Officer at Marin Theatre Company in Mill Valley. Patti holds a Masters of Arts in English and Literature from The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Patti is replacing outgoing Interim Executive Director, Annie Bauer, who served WillMar for over a year. Bauer helped the Board and the Center reorganize and led them through a strategic planning process for future growth. "After a wonderful 15 months serving as WillMar's Interim Executive Director, I am thrilled to hand over the reigns to Patti Cawood as the new, long-term Executive Director. Patti has strong non-profit experience and a fabulous record of accomplishment in fundraising. I thoroughly endorse and support her as the next leader of the Center", says Bauer. "I look forward to continuing to support WillMar both financially and as a volunteer, as I firmly believe in its wonderful work."

"We are so appreciative of all that Annie Bauer has accomplished in her time as Interim ED at WillMar. And, we are delighted to have someone like Patti, who is recognized for her dedication, enthusiasm, and passion for serving the community's families and children, as the person who will carry on at WillMar Center. Her energy and zeal will certainly help guide WillMar successfully into the future." Mary Smith, Board President.