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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Monnie Lunsford
Executive Director
O'Berry Center Foundation, Inc.
(919) 581-5187

Contact:
Danielle Howell
Executive Director
Caswell Center Foundation, Inc.
(252) 208-3790

**WAYNE, LENOIR COUNTIES TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF CARE
FOR PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
WITH NC GLAXOSMITHKLINE FOUNDATION RIBBON OF HOPE GRANT**

Research Triangle Park, NC – Over the last several years, budget cuts have created many gaps in the care of the developmentally and intellectually disabled population. Using a \$25,000 Ribbon of Hope grant, the O'Berry Center Foundation and the Caswell Center Foundation will develop a training program for professionals and caregivers working with this population in Wayne and Lenoir counties.

The NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation's Board of Directors awarded the Ribbon of Hope grant to the O'Berry Center Foundation, Inc. in Wayne County. The O'Berry Center Foundation will collaborate with the Caswell Center Foundation in Lenoir County, to develop training opportunities covering the special needs of those with developmental disabilities.

“The increased emphasis on providing support for the developmentally disabled adults in the community, coupled with managed care mandates, make it imperative that providers and guardians are competent to manage the complex needs of this population,” said Monnie Lunsford, executive director of the O'Berry Center Foundation. “The special needs of those with developmental disabilities require knowledgeable and competent services that can respond appropriately and in a timely manner. This requires a multidisciplinary approach and improved training of professionals and caregivers working with this population, and that is what we will provide with this Ribbon of Hope grant.”

The target audience for the training includes community agencies, parent/guardians, and state employees from Caswell Development Center and O'Berry Neuro Medical Treatment Center in the Lenoir and Wayne County area. The intended outcome of these trainings is to increase the quality of life and quality of care for persons with developmental disabilities. In order to accomplish this outcome, the trainings will assist in increasing awareness of resources and knowledge for parents and guardians caring for a loved one with a disability and increase the skills, knowledge and morale for direct care staff and other staff who work with this population.

If you would like more information about these series of Educational Seminars or would like to collaborate, please contact the O'Berry Center Foundation at 919-581-4187 or the Caswell Center Foundation at 252-208-3790.

The NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation has awarded grants to nonprofits across the state under the Ribbon of Hope program. As part of the grant, recipients also receive customized consulting services and technical assistance from the North Carolina Center for Nonprofits. The goal of the Ribbon of Hope program, which offers one-time \$25,000 grants, is to have a positive impact on the lives of North Carolina's citizens in each of the state's 100 counties by supporting programs that further health, science and education in local communities.

Ribbon of Hope contact information:

For complete guidelines and related materials, visit www.mcrel.org/GSKribbonofhope/. For information, call 303-632-5578 or email RibbonOfHope@mcrel.org.