

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Center for Adoption Support & Education Awarded \$75,000 from W.K. Kellogg Foundation to Develop Racial and Cultural Identity Training Programs for Professionals**

January 08, 2008 – Burtonsville, MD – The Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E.) is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a \$75,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation

The grant will enable C.A.S.E. to develop training curricula for post-masters mental health professionals on issues of racial and cultural identity as they impact individuals who are adopted internationally or transracially as well as benefit adoptive families. The training program will comprise a DVD/Discussion Guide, classroom curricula and a resource guide for clinicians on racial/cultural identity issues.

“This generous funding will make it possible for C.A.S.E to develop comprehensive, in-depth training materials for professionals,” said Debbie Riley, M.S., Executive Director of C.A.S.E. “Racial and cultural identity are vital competencies on which the intensive training programs will focus.” A growing number of adoptive families have adopted trans-racially and trans-culturally. Professionals will acquire the skills to effectively help adoptees and their families understand the impact of race, ethnicity and culture upon their lives and the development of healthy racial, ethnic identity.

Multiracial children, trans-racial adoptees and children adopted from foster care by families in which there is more than one racial or cultural heritage have unique experiences inside and outside their families – experiences that differ from those of children who are raised in racially and culturally homogeneous families. Research indicates that children’s healthy development depends on the effective management of diversity-related issues by their families and that adoptive families frequently seek mental health services to assist them with these issues.

Approximately 50% of the adoptive families for whom C.A.S.E. provides adoption-competent clinical services are transracial or transcultural. The training program will prepare psychologists and clinical social workers, as well as marriage and family counselors (and other licensed professionals) to accurately assess and develop appropriate intervention strategies.

#### **ABOUT THE CENTER FOR ADOPTION SUPPORT AND EDUCATION**

Since 1998, C.A.S.E. has ensured the well-being of foster and adoptive families, with adoption-competent counseling and educational services, as well as nationally acclaimed publications (W.I.S.E. Up!<sup>®</sup>, W.I.S.E. Up! for Children in Foster Care<sup>®</sup>, S.A.F.E. at School<sup>®</sup> and *Beneath the Mask: Understanding Adopted Teens.*) for foster and adopted children, teens, adults and families. Named "One of the Best Small Charities" by The Catalogue for Philanthropy, C.A.S.E. is an independent, non-profit organization that also provides adoption-competent training workshops to child welfare professionals, counselors and educators. For more information call 301-476-8525 or visit the website at [www.adoptionsupport.org](http://www.adoptionsupport.org).

#### **ABOUT THE W.K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION**

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation was established in 1930. The organization supports children, families and communities as they strengthen and create conditions that propel vulnerable children to achieve success as individuals and as contributors to the larger community and society. Grants are concentrated in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the south African countries of Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. For further information, please visit the Foundation’s website at [www.wkkf.org](http://www.wkkf.org).