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### **PFCS HUNTS FOR HOPE IN HARD TIMES**

*Benefit Features Treasure Hunt to Support Mental Health, Addiction Services*

**Carmel, NY** – There’s no denying: times have been tough for everyone lately. But for people who live with mental illness and addiction, coping with events like those we have experienced in recent months can be especially difficult. That’s why Diane E. Russo, Executive Director of Putnam Family and Community Services (PFCS), wants the thousands in Putnam County who are affected by issues of mental health and chemical dependency to know that “hope is never gone for good, and PFCS is here to help you find it.”

This year, the nonprofit is inviting the community to join the hunt for hope at their annual Dinner Dance Benefit, which will take place on November 18<sup>th</sup> at Sinapi’s Ceola Manor. In keeping with the Benefit’s theme, “Quest for the Hidden Treasures of Hope,” the evening will feature a Treasure Hunt in which guests can participate. Live music will be provided by Hudson Valley’s The Crossroads Band and all proceeds will support PFCS’s services.



*Diane E. Russo, Executive Director of PFCS, thanks guests of last year’s benefit for their support.*

“We are honored to support people as they overcome the challenges of mental illness and chemical dependency and to help them find their strength again,” said Russo. “Our Benefit is a wonderful opportunity to involve the community and spread the message that recovery is always possible.”

The Dinner Dance is also the agency’s major annual fundraiser, and Russo was frank in stating that hope is not the only “treasure” PFCS is looking to find at the Benefit. “Many generous organizations have already partnered with us to sponsor this event, but we’re hoping that more businesses will participate. Given the economy, the support of our local community is more important than ever this year.”

Early sponsors include: Platinum Level – Health Quest, South Putnam Animal Hospital; Gold– Clifton Budd & DeMaria, LLP; Silver – The Willis/Drake Family from Garrison, Susan & Edward Douglas; Bronze – Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union; and Premiere – Putnam Management Group, LLC.

Reservations for PFCS’s “Hidden Treasure Quest” will be accepted until October 28<sup>th</sup>. Those who wish to support the agency by sponsoring the Benefit or advertising in the 2011 commemorative Journal may contact Cheryl McKeever at 845-225-2700, x136, by October 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### **About Putnam Family and Community Services, Inc.**

Putnam Family and Community Services, Inc. (PFCS) is a private non-profit agency providing mental health and chemical dependency treatment and prevention services to people of all ages, regardless of ability to pay. PFCS promotes opportunities to grow, heal, and recover through comprehensive services including counseling, case management, family advocacy, community outreach, and assistance with addiction and rehabilitation. For more information, visit [www.PFCSinc.org](http://www.PFCSinc.org).