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Meal for the Minds

BENEFITING METROCARE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

METROCARE HOSTS MEAL FOR THE MINDS LUNCHEON FOCUSING ON FAMILIES AND CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Meal for the Minds Raises Awareness & Funding For Community Mental Health
Services

DALLAS, September 19, 2012 – On Wednesday, September 19, 2012, Metrocare Services, the largest nonprofit provider of mental and behavioral health services in Dallas, hosts the 2012 Meal for the Minds fundraising luncheon at the Belo Mansion.

The focus of this year's luncheon highlights the services Metrocare provides for clients with developmental challenges and how all types of support are important in treating these patients. Developmental disabilities like any other medical condition can be over whelming for the patient and the family. Metrocare works directly with families to provide them with an understanding about a loved one's disability through its programs such as: Early Childhood Intervention, Behavioral Treatment Services, and Case Management Services.

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Keynote Speaker, Kim Stagliano, discusses the family and community dynamics of raising special needs children and focuses on one of Metrocare's major services, which is to provide support for families who have loved ones dealing with ongoing mental health issues.

Stagliano is the author of the memoir *"All I Can Handle I'm not Mother Teresa: A Life Raising Three Daughters with Autism"* and she serves as the Managing Editor of www.ageofautism.com, the nation's first daily web newspaper about the autism epidemic. She writes for the *Huffington Post* and *the Autism File Magazine*. She speaks at national autism conferences and has appeared on *Good Morning America*, *ABC News*, and *Fox News*.

"We are so pleased that Ms. Stagliano will be sharing about her daughters and how as a community we can better support families raising children with special needs," said Linda E. Thompson, Interim CEO of Metrocare Services. "Like many other families, the Staglianos have learned to navigate a society that is not always kind to those with developmental disabilities."

"As mother to three children with autism, I want my girls to lead safe, meaningful lives that accommodate and respect their unique needs, just like every parent does" said Ms. Stagliano. "I'm thankful to Metrocare and Meal for the Minds for spreading the word that people with these disabilities can and do participate in the world as equal citizens."

Metrocare (www.metrocareservices.org) serves nearly 60,000 people annually through programs across Dallas County; they are considered the safety net for Dallas County's low income families who cannot afford to go elsewhere to treat a family member's mental health needs. Metrocare services are offered in clinics, schools, clients' homes and even on the streets; Metrocare just wants to make sure that every person who needs support gets it in some way.

The Metrocare Auxiliary, a group of 145 volunteers, hosts the luncheon, which includes the 5th annual Edible Auction featuring tasty treats from Dallas' top pastry chefs. The silent auction begins at 11 am and the luncheon programs begin at 11:45am. Also back by popular demand is an art sale by Art Focus XC, an elite group of juried Dallas artists.

Platinum sponsors, giving \$5,000, include Whole Foods Market and Millet the Printer. Gold level sponsors, giving \$2,500, include BlueCross BlueShield of Texas, Direct Development, Disability Action Center, Julie & Pierce Noble, Morgan & Weisbrod, and the Social Security Disability Attorneys.

The event committee includes chair: Jean Obert, members David Aston, Louise Bell, Maureen Berger, Pat Bowman, DeAnna Griffin, Jean Farris, Mary Fae Kamm, Lynda Landers, Sandy Naylor, Julie Noble, Suzie Patterson, Laurey Peat + Associates, Lanora Potts, Sandy Stephens, Shirley Tallis, MarcileTurney, Lynda Tolleson, Helen Towne, Gaynell Watson, Mary Jane Webster, Grace Anne Woodruff and Lindsay Zimmerman.

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ABOUT METROCARE: Over 60,000 adults and children will come to Metrocare for help with a mental illness or developmental disability this year. Formerly known as Dallas County MHMR (Mental Health Mental Retardation), Metrocare is a 501.c.3 nonprofit that has been providing care in Dallas for over 40 years. Metrocare helps clients of all ages (babies to elderly) who are living with developmental delays, depression, bipolar, autism, Asperger's and many other conditions that create challenges for them and their families. Join us in helping our neighbors find lives that are meaningful and satisfying.