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**CONTACT: Willow Ann Sirch  
Director of Communications  
The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp  
(203) 772-0522, ext. 23  
[willow.sirch@holeinthewallgang.org](mailto:willow.sirch@holeinthewallgang.org)**

### **An Evening with Eddie & the Gang**

New Haven, Connecticut – February 18, 2011 – It all began more than twenty years ago when Paul Newman had a great idea. He took the sickest kids he could find – those with illnesses like cancer and sickle cell anemia – and gave them a special camp that would make their spirits soar. At 6 p.m. on March 29<sup>th</sup>, Westport Country Playhouse will open its doors to celebrate that very special place – The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp – and the compassion and goodwill of its founder.

“An Evening with Eddie & the Gang” will feature a screening of *The Hustler* starring Paul Newman, and will kick-off with highlights of the Camp’s growing services that in 2011 will reach more than 15,000 children – at the Camp’s summer program, year-round weekend programs and outreach to children in hospitals.

“The purpose of this special evening,” explains James Canton, the Camp’s chief executive officer, “is to remember and inspire all in attendance with the values that Paul held so dear and that find expression at Camp every day – the values of kindness, compassion and generosity...as well as a little bit of mischief.” More than 40 Fairfield County children attend The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp’s signature summer camp program each year.

“It’s our pleasure to host the Camp’s fundraising celebration at the Playhouse,” said Michael Ross, Westport Country Playhouse managing director. “Since Paul Newman so beautifully graced our stage on many occasions it is only fitting we provide this same stage in support of The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp!”

“Westport Country Playhouse has a long history of supporting The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp,” said Canton. “This event is yet another example of how they have generously supported our efforts to serve children whose lives have been turned upside down by serious illness.”

Doors open at 6pm, with the program beginning at 7pm. Individual tickets for “An Evening with Eddie & the Gang” cost \$75 each. Sponsorship packages are available and include advertisement opportunities and a pre-screening reception at the Dressing Room. To purchase tickets or sponsorship packages, contact Amanda Garbatini, Associate Director of Special Events, at 203-772-0522 x 22 or [amanda.garbatini@holeinthewallgang.org](mailto:amanda.garbatini@holeinthewallgang.org). All proceeds benefit The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp and help to underwrite its services for seriously ill children.

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