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Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Receives \$500,000 Grant from Travelers

New Haven, CT – March 17, 2010 – When West Hartford resident Dane Silcox learned that his son Matt had been diagnosed with cancer, it was the worst day of his life. Over the next three years, his son underwent treatment at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. “What we found at Connecticut Children’s” says Silcox, “was a staff of nurses, doctors, social workers, orderlies and staff, people that gave their hearts and souls to the care of these children.” In addition, Silcox’s son received visits from counselors in The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Hospital Outreach Program. They brought hours of laughter, comfort and distraction to Silcox’s son. The program “is fantastic,” says Silcox. “It makes a significant difference in the lives of children like my son that are sick and in the hospital fighting for their lives.” Today, The Travelers Companies, Inc. announced a grant of \$500,000 to support the expansion of The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Hospital Outreach Program, bringing The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp experience to the bedsides of seriously ill hospitalized youngsters from New York to Boston.

“We are especially grateful to Travelers for their generous grant and their visionary support of the Camp’s Hospital Outreach Program that brings hope and healing to so many thousands of seriously ill hospitalized youngsters and their families throughout the northeast,” said James H. Canton, Chief Executive Officer of The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp.

Founded in Ashford, Connecticut by Paul Newman more than 20 years ago, The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp serves more than 15,000 children each year. At the Camp, children with illnesses ranging from cancer to sickle cell anemia, HIV/AIDS, hemophilia and other serious illnesses and conditions find healing and camaraderie. As one camper has put it, “I love it here. Sometimes you think being so sick gives you limits, but here you can try anything.” In addition to its signature summer camp program and the Hospital Outreach Program, the Camp offers year-round family programming, camper reunions, parent respite weekends.

About The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp

Founded in 1988 by Paul Newman, the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp is located in Ashford, Connecticut, with development offices in New Haven, Connecticut. We are a nonprofit, residential summer camp and year-round center serving children and their families coping with cancer, sickle cell anemia, HIV/AIDS, hemophilia and other serious illnesses and conditions. The Camp serves more than 15,000 children annually. All of the Camp’s services are provided free of charge. Visit www.holeinthewallgang.org for more information about the Camp.

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