



GUIDE Program, Inc.



MEDIA RELEASE

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Miss Maryland 2008 hosts concert with Singer/Song-writers, Maia Sharp and Lindsay Rush, to promote emotional wellbeing in Montgomery County

Gaithersburg, MD – “Mindfulness, Resiliency, and Song” a free event which is part of the Gaithersburg “On Stage” Summer Outdoor Concert Series will take place on Saturday, June 21 at 7 p.m. at the City Hall Concert Pavilion in Olde Towne Gaithersburg, 31 S. Summit Avenue. Singer/songwriters, Maia Sharp and Lindsay Rush, will entertain the crowd while entwining messages on the importance of emotional wellbeing.

Lindsay Rush, a spokesperson for Mental Health America (formerly the National Mental Health Association), performs music that taps into the emotions and feelings of others, often giving the listener valuable insights. She is just completing a tour with rock legend Pat Benatar. Maia Sharp, currently touring with Bonnie Raitt, has written songs recorded by the Dixie Chicks, Trisha Yearwood, and Art Garfunkel, among others. Raitt calls Maia Sharp, “one of her favorite artists...who is making some of the most innovative and soulful music around...”

The Mistress of Ceremonies at the concert will be Miss Maryland USA 2008, Casandra Tressler. A native of Damascus, Ms. Tressler is committed to social service work here in our area and around the world, particularly in Latin America. In her role as Mistress of Ceremonies, she will engage the audience in both English and Spanish. Ms. Tressler will be joined in

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welcoming the crowd and in speaking to the importance of personal wellness by Sidney Katz, Mayor of Gaithersburg.

The event is a partnership created to bring mental health awareness to the community through the universal language of music. It is being coordinated by the City of Gaithersburg, GUIDE Program, Inc., and Mental Health Association of Montgomery County. And it is being sponsored by Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc., the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families, and the City of Gaithersburg.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information about the Concert, go to www.gaithersburgmd.gov/onstage. In the case of inclement weather, attendees should check the City's website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov or call (301) 258-6350 after 5 p.m. on the day of the concert. The event rain date is Sunday, June 22 at 7 p.m.

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GUIDE Program, Inc.'s mission is to enrich lives, empower families, enhance communities, and embrace diversity through the provision of high quality mental health and social services. GUIDE, a nonprofit behavioral health agency, has been serving the suburban Washington/Baltimore Region and Montgomery County since 1968 providing an array of community based residential and nonresidential direct service programs. Annually GUIDE touches the lives of over 3,000 children, youth, and adults. Individuals and families can turn to GUIDE to obtain guidance and assistance in times of personal challenge. Public officials and community agencies often look to the agency to provide effective resources for their communities.

Mental Health Association of Montgomery County (MHA) promotes mental wellness and supports those with mental illness by sponsoring and implementing advocacy, education and community service programs. A private, nonprofit, United Way (#8151) agency, MHA has serving Montgomery County residents for over 50 years. MHA currently manages 11 direct service programs for children, teens, families, senior adults and individuals with long-term mental illness. Over 1,000 volunteers implement programs under the direction of MHA's professional staff.