

For Immediate Release

IFRED DONATES 15K TO KRISTIN BROOKS HOPE CENTER **IN MEMORY OF PHILIP MERRILL**

Washington, D.C. (June 21, 2006) – iFred, the International Association for Research and Education on Depression, announces today that it is giving the Kristin Brooks Hope Center (KBHC) \$15,000 in support of the work and efforts of the center. The center operates a suicide hotline for people in crisis, 1-800 SUICIDE, and connects more than 35,000 callers a month to a local crisis center and a trained first responder. KBHC also has several programs working to educate and improve how people depression and suicide.

“These funds will help us tremendously in our efforts to maintain and enhance the center in memory of my late wife, Kristin Brooks. Our monthly phone bill alone is \$30,000, and we support over 500,000 people a year at a critical decision making point in their life. We are hoping some of the major phone companies step up to the plate and help us with this critical service”.

“I don't have a lot of money so I'm not able to give much to anybody. Maybe it will mean something to you that this is probably 10 times the donation I've ever made to any entity. You provide an absolutely necessary service - one that, unfortunately, the "powers that be" don't always find necessary. And by the way, I came here directly from the website.”

In addition to 1-800-SUICIDE and 1-800-SUICIDA KBHC has developed many other easy to remember numbers and programs that are targeted to specific at risk groups.

- 1.800.SUICIDE brings together the knowledge, skill and resources of crisis centers nationwide under the safety net of a single toll-free telephone number making critical services available to all.
- Youth America Hotline, 1-877-YOUTHLINE the only national youth-to-youth network, offers young people access to their peers in times of crisis.
- 800-GRADHLP line broadens the reach of a vital resource for distressed graduate students.
- 800-PPD-MOMS connects new moms suffering from post partum depression to a peer counselor.

Kathryn Goetzke White, Founder of iFred, states that “The work that the Kristin Brooks Hope Center does is an unfortunate necessity. We hope that through our combined efforts, we can reduce the number of people getting to the ‘crisis’ stage and eliminate the need for such hotlines. However, until that day comes we need to continue to support those in crisis so they can get the help they need to find resources for treatment of their depression”.

The Kristin Brooks Hope Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to suicide prevention, intervention and healing: by providing a single point of entry to community-based crisis services through innovative telephony and internet based technologies; by bringing national attention and access to services for post partum depression and other women’s mood disorders; through education and advocacy; through formal research and evaluation of crisis line services; and, by championing the need for national funding for community-based suicide prevention crisis services. To find out more, visit www.hopeline.com.

For Press Inquiries contact:

Alisa Greenwood

410-268-0044