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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY CUTS RIBBON FOR A “HOUSE OF FRIENDSHIP”**

*Non-profit provides a new 24-unit fully accessible, affordable apartment complex in Glendale for individuals with developmental disabilities*

**Glendale, CA, Friday, February 26, 2010** -- United Cerebral Palsy of Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties (UCP) will cut the ribbon on their new 24-unit, 2-story fully accessible, affordable apartment complex for individuals with developmental disabilities in Glendale, CA. *Casa de la Amistad* (House of Friendship) was made possible through several generous funders including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Housing Authority of the City of Glendale, California Department of Housing and Community Development, Weingart Foundation and many generous supporters. This project marks the 11th rent subsidized apartment complex, and 31st development project in UCP’s history, and addresses the critical shortage of affordable, accessible housing in Los Angeles County for low-income individuals with developmental disabilities. The building is equipped with key features that support independent living for the developmentally disabled tenants, such as remote controlled doors, individual apartment unit emergency assistance lights, wide walk-ways, and wheelchair accessible configurations for both the kitchen and bathroom. UCP will provide counselors from its Community Support Living Program for each resident.

“We are very excited about the opening of *Casa de la Amistad*. These rent subsidized apartments make it possible for people with disabilities to live on their own in beautiful surroundings. This day would not be possible if not for the shared commitment at the city, state and federal levels of government, as well as our many generous community supporters,” said Ronald S. Cohen, President and Chief Executive Officer of United Cerebral Palsy.

United Cerebral Palsy is one of the largest direct-care service providers and advocates for persons with disabilities in California, with the goal of helping individuals with Cerebral Palsy, Autism, Down syndrome, and other developmental disabilities maximize their own potential to live full and dignified lives. Over 1,000 individuals are served daily, through UCP’s housing services, physical and occupational therapy, support groups, education, job placement, and supported living assistance.

For more information about UCP’s services or to make a donation, please call Shannon Vukalcic at (818) 782-2211, ext. 524.

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