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Stop CMV and The CMV Action Network
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Stop CMV Launches New Parent Advisory Panel

January 25, 2010 -- Stop CMV and The CMV Action Network has announced the launch of its new Parent Advisory Panel. The Stop CMV Parent Advisory Panel will provide a formal mechanism for CMV parent input to Stop CMV. CMV parents appointed to the Parent Advisory Panel will have the chance to communicate with one another and to formulate recommendations that reflect the needs of all members of The CMV Action Network. Additionally, parents serving on the Parent Advisory Panel will serve as official volunteer staff members for Stop CMV. "We have been so fortunate to attract the interest and support of talented, dedicated CMV parents and families within our CMV Action Network," says Janelle Greenlee, founder and president of Stop CMV. "I am excited to engage with these parents and work to keep our finger on the pulse of the families that we represent and serve."

2010 Parent Advisory Panel members include Jamie Nodine of New York, Angela Osborne-Davis of Florida, Denise Blake of Washington D.C., Kaylene Dill of California, Kristina White of Delaware, and Melanie Davis of Texas. Parent Advisory Panel meetings will be held two to four times per year with scheduled topics varying according to relevant issues, campaigns, and projects. "Stop CMV has always given us the chance to voice our opinions, but being part of the Parent Advisory Panel really gives us a specific way to help and take action," says Jamie Nodine, a Parent Advisory Panel member who also serves as the Stop CMV Chapter President for Rochester, New York. "It's wonderful to be part of the process and the planning. It makes it real."

CMV is the most common congenital infection in the United States and is the most common cause of birth defects and disabilities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report that 1 in every 150 children are born infected with congenital CMV. Each year in the United States alone, approximately 30,000 children are born with congenital CMV infection. Congenital CMV causes deafness, blindness, cerebral palsy, mental and physical disabilities, seizures, and death. It is estimated that hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of children and adults in the United States are living with congenital CMV. In addition to this, millions of lives, including parents, families, and caregivers, are affected by congenital CMV and the direct costs of caring for congenital CMV children are estimated at 1-2 billion dollars annually.

Since 2003, Stop CMV has been working to foster congenital CMV awareness via internet and public awareness campaigns. The mission of Stop CMV and The CMV Action Network is to prevent and eliminate congenital CMV and to improve the lives of all people affected by congenital CMV. Stop CMV and The CMV Action Network have over 70 Area Representatives in the United States and worldwide who serve as Chapter Presidents of Stop CMV chapters. To contact a Representative in your area, please visit www.stopcmv.com/chapters.php. If you do not see your area listed, please contact reps@stopcmv.com for assistance. For more information about Stop CMV and The CMV Action Network, please contact press@stopcmv.com.

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