

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Charter Oak Forms Multi-Year Charitable
Relationship with Whole Children of Hadley**
First-Year Funding to Support Nonprofit's Teen Transition Program

Holyoke, MA—Charter Oak Insurance and Financial Services Co. is pleased to announce that it has formed a three-year charitable relationship with Whole Children, a Hadley-based nonprofit that provides recreational, social and enrichment programs for children and teens of all abilities, namely those with special needs.

In the initial year of the relationship, Charter Oak will give \$10,000 to Whole Children in support of a new program that focuses on helping teens with special needs transition into adulthood. Charter Oak will also participate in events to raise funds for a wheelchair-accessible van for Whole Children's students.

Financial support from Charter Oak comes from the agency's charitable arm, The Charter Oak Fund, and is part of a larger community-outreach strategy benefiting children—particularly those with special needs—in the agency's three major markets of Western Massachusetts, Central/Eastern Connecticut and Southern Connecticut.

Pete Novak, General Agent of Charter Oak, said: "We are thrilled to team up with Whole Children. Its grassroots focus and immediate impact on the children it serves is a perfect fit for our desire support a local nonprofit not only financially, but also through hands-on service. To be able to commit to this level of involvement and support is truly meaningful to us as an organization."

Carrie McGee, Whole Children's Executive Director, said: "We are honored that Charter Oak has chosen to work with us. At Whole Children, we believe in the potential of each one of our students and understand the importance of creating a supportive and caring community for their parents. We are grateful to Charter Oak for supporting Whole Children's potential and look forward to working with them in the future."

Kim Holden, Program Coordinator, added "We are especially excited about Charter Oak's support of our Teen Transition Program. We hold the bar of expectation high and help our students develop the skills and independence required to meet that expectation. Sometimes they even surprise themselves. We are thrilled to have Charter Oak's support for this special program and we're looking forward to a fruitful partnership."

In addition to Whole Children, Charter Oak has also pledged a three-year commitment to FOCUS of Greater Hartford and New Pond Farm, located in West Redding, Connecticut.

Whole Children provides recreational, social and enrichment programs for children and teens of all abilities, including those with special needs. The organization represents a group of parents who have learned that, given the opportunity, their children can far surpass even our own expectations, and the more doors that are open to them, the more they may discover the worlds that await their success. For more information, visit www.wholechildren.org.

Charter Oak Insurance and Financial Services Co. is a general agency of Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual) and serves the risk management, business services and retirement and investment planning needs of more than 70,000 clients throughout the northeast. With offices in Boston, Farmington, Holyoke, New Haven, Southbury and Stamford, Charter Oak considers helping others the heart of its business and is proud to support many philanthropic organizations in all of the markets it serves. To learn more, visit www.charteroakinsurance.com.

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