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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM AND MOBILE OUTREACH TEAM RECEIVE TEAM AWARD FROM 100 CLUB OF CENTRAL TEXAS

May 19, 2009 (Williamson County, TX) – The Williamson County Sheriff's Office Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) and the Williamson County Mobile Outreach Team (MOT) received the 100 Club of Central Texas Award for Outstanding Team for 2008 at their awards ceremony on May 15. This is the second time CIT has received this award, having first received it in 2006. On May 19, the Williamson County Commissioners Court approved a resolution honoring both teams for receiving the award. The 100 Club of Central Texas is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit charitable organization providing financial, legal and emotional support to families of first responders who are killed in the line of duty in Travis, Hays, Bastrop, Williamson and Caldwell counties.

MOT was established in September 2004 to serve the growing mental health needs of the county. The team currently is comprised of five mental health specialists and one unit director. They responded to 2,423 calls for psychiatric emergencies in 2008, an increase of 40% since 2006.

In November 2005, the Williamson County Sheriff's Office was tasked with the responsibility of crisis intervention for psychiatric emergencies throughout the county, and the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) was born. The unit, comprised of ten specialize mental health officers and one lieutenant responded to 3,194 calls for psychiatric emergencies in 2008, and increase of 40% since 2006.

Together, the two teams have diverted hundreds of people from the criminal justice system resulting in a savings of more than \$4.9 million to Williamson County since the teams were created. In addition, calls to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) have been diverted leaving

EMS available to respond to medical emergencies, and the number of people taken to state mental hospitals has been significantly reduced.

The effectiveness of the Crisis Intervention Team and Mobile Outreach Team is due to their professionalism, expertise and dedication. Their progressive team approach in dealing with mental health has been used as a model in other counties.

The award was presented at the 26th Annual Awards Banquet for the 100 Club of Central Texas on May 15, 2009, at the Texas Disposal Systems Exotic Game Ranch in Buda, Texas. The 100 Club honors area first responders for exemplary acts of duty, having been nominated by their departments and judged by a panel of retired first responders. The banquet is the community's way of saying "Thank you" and showing appreciation for a job well done.