



## ***NEWS RELEASE***

### **Protected Tomorrows Helps Families with Special Needs in Boston Area**

**LINCOLNSHIRE, III. (March 20, 2008)**— Help is on the way for Boston area families, overwhelmed by what the future holds for their child with developmental disabilities. Protected Tomorrows, a Chicago area-based advocacy firm for the special needs community, will hold an all-day interactive workshop called, **“Creating the Future Care Plan for Family Members with Special Needs,” 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, April 12 at the Lexia Learning Center, 200 Baker Ave. Extension, Suite 315 Concord, Mass.**

From education to financial planning, preparing for the future can be complex for these families. “I know firsthand how daunting the process can be” said Mary Anne Ehlert, president and founder of Protected Tomorrows. She was inspired to establish the firm after helping her parents plan for her sister with cerebral palsy. With more than 15 years of experience working with families with special needs, Ehlert shares her expertise in Concord.

The workshop will allow each family member—parents, siblings and extended family members—to understand and work through the eight stages of the planning process. Concerns that will be addressed include family communication, daily living, government benefits, financial planning and legal considerations, such as a special needs trust.

Protected Tomorrows has a network of Advocates across the nation, including one in Nashua, N.H. “These individuals are trained to understand the complexities of accessing government benefits and guiding families through the planning process,” Ehlert added. “Our goal is to help families plan a safe and fulfilling life for their loved one with special needs.”

The Angleman Syndrome Foundation is sponsoring the all-day workshop. “We wouldn’t consider getting in our cars without our cell phones in case of an accident; yet we fail to plan for our loved one’s future security,” said Executive Director Eileen Braun. “We don’t want parents to put off planning, so we’re giving them the tools and a place to start.”

The workshop is open to any family that has a loved one with special needs whether the individual has Angleman syndrome, autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, mental illness or other disabilities. The cost is \$25 per person, which includes donuts and coffee in the morning and lunch.

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To register for the workshop, visit <http://www.angelman.org>. For more information on arranging a similar all-day event, go to [www.ProtectedTomorrows.com](http://www.ProtectedTomorrows.com) or call (847) 522-8086.

*Protected Tomorrows, Inc. is a Chicago-area advocacy firm that enhances the lives of people with special needs through a comprehensive life planning process. Our specially-trained nationwide network of Advocates—stretching coast to coast—creates Future Care Plans™, which address the needs of the individual with developmental disabilities, mental illness, physical disabilities, or cognitive and neurological diseases in the following areas: education, health care, residential, government benefits, financial, vocational, legal and recreational. The Future Care Plan is a comprehensive way to approach and address the fears, hopes and dreams of families with a special needs individual. Since 2004, Protected Tomorrows has inspired real change in the special needs community through presentations and workshops on life planning focusing on family communication, special needs trusts and government benefits. Protected Tomorrows also has served as a resource with its connections to legal, financial, medical and social service professionals, parents, siblings, providers and other advocates working together to find innovative solutions for families.*

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