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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 2015  
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**CHILDREN'S THERAPEUTIC GARDEN REOPENS**  
**AT PUTNAM FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES**

*After being destroyed by Hurricane Sandy in 2012, the beautiful garden is restored and ready to serve the children who seek help with social/emotional issues*

**Putnam County, NY – June 2015**

**“Teaching children about the natural world should be treated as one of the most important events in their lives.”** Thomas Berry

In 2002, Mary Alice King, a PFCS Social Worker and Master Gardener, realized her long time dream of creating a Children's Therapeutic Garden at our facility here in Carmel. With generous donations from local merchants and the willing hands of many eager volunteers, her vision was realized. Her special place for the children who utilize the agency's services to experience the joys of nature and its message of ongoing beauty that grows from within was realized.

For many years, our therapeutic garden served as an invaluable tool to the therapists here at PFCS, bringing the power and joy of nature to the children under their care, and instilling in them an appreciation of how they can work with plants to create a safe and calming place.

Unfortunately, in 2012, Hurricane Sandy wreaked havoc on our lovely little garden, destroying the structures so lovingly installed and making the garden inaccessible and unusable.

But the spirit of our Master Gardener, Mary Alice, would not be daunted! In the summer of 2015, she single-handedly (with a little help from her husband!) came to the rescue, clearing years of overgrowth and restoring the garden beds to their former beauty. With a restored gazebo and private bench, a bit of paint, and some reclaimed furniture, the PFCS Children's Therapeutic Garden is once more a gift of beauty, comfort and healing for all those in our care.

**Many thanks, Mary Alice!**

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**About Putnam Family and Community Services, Inc.**

Putnam Family and Community Services, Inc. (PFCS) is the only private non-profit agency providing recovery-based mental health and substance use disorder treatment and prevention services in Putnam County, NY. PFCS offers hope and healing to people of all ages through a comprehensive range of services including individual and group counseling, care management, family advocacy, parenting education, community outreach, psychiatric rehabilitation, and medication management. For more information, visit [www.PFCSinc.org](http://www.PFCSinc.org) or [www.Facebook.com/PFCSinc](https://www.Facebook.com/PFCSinc).