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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Eighth Annual Galaxy of STARs
Gala Dinner Dance & Auction
Scheduled for Saturday, November 14, 2009**

July 29, 2009: The **8th Annual Galaxy of STARs Gala Dinner Dance and Auction**, a fundraiser to benefit programs and services for individuals with developmental disabilities of STAR, Inc., Lighting the Way... will be held on Saturday, November 14, 2009 at Woodway Country Club in Darien, Connecticut.

The event, which includes dinner, dancing and a live and silent auction, raises funds for STAR's programs throughout Southwestern Fairfield County. In recognition of the STAR community, participants as well as their families, friends and supporters—celebrate the full, productive and rewarding lives they are able to lead--filled with friendships, loving family relationships, productive employment or volunteer work and community activities.

Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families throughout Lower Fairfield County benefit from funds raised at the 8th Annual Galaxy of STARs Gala Dinner Dance and Auction. They receive STAR's services, which include: childhood early intervention services and birth-to-three programs, physical and occupational therapies for infants and children, social services, assistive technology and referrals, respite services, recreational and social programs for adults, employment training and opportunities, school-to-work transition programs, family and community services, assistance with daily activities, senior services, transportation and support for independent living in STAR's group homes, cluster apartments, and supported living arrangements.

The McLaughlin Foundation, Jason and Janie Konidaris, and Annie Konidaris are lead sponsors of the event, which is also sponsored by Cox Radio Stations 97.9 The FOX and 96.7 The COAST. The committee for the event to date includes Joseph and Nella Viesta of Darien, Bill and Ann Scheffler of Westport, John Masanotti and Mary Ferrara of Darien, Paul and Brenda Breitenbach of Wilton, Rob and Meghan Cioffi of New Canaan, Joan Dionne of New Canaan,

and John and Polly Lowman of Darien. Details of sponsorship are available at:
<http://www.starinc-lightingtheway.org/starpages/galaxysponsorships.html>.

STAR, Inc., Lighting the Way is a not-for-profit organization serving infants, children and adults with developmental disabilities, as well as providing support services to their families. We create opportunities for individuals to live full lives with independence, freedom of choice and personal growth by providing support, services and advocacy. We inform and encourage the community to recognize and appreciate the value of all individuals.

For additional information about the Eighth Annual Galaxy of STARS Gala Dinner Dance & Auction, please contact Michael Petell at (203) 846-9581 or mpetell@starinonline.com. You can also learn more by visiting STAR's website at www.starinc-lightingtheway.org.

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