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NJ Author To Celebrate 25-Year Anniversary of Iconic Children's Book

PRINCETON, NJ, SEPTEMBER 3, 2015 – *Is Your Mama A Llama?*, an all-time Scholastic children's book, is celebrating its silver anniversary. To honor the occasion, Community Options' gift store Presents of Mind in Flanders, NJ will be holding a book signing with author Deborah Guarino on Saturday, September 12 from 3-6 pm.

"I'm thrilled to be doing this anniversary book-signing at a store which does so much to help its community, especially those who have intellectual and physical challenges. My own younger sister, Adriane Guarino, has Down syndrome and truly enjoyed her time with the staff at Presents of Mind," Guarino explained.

"It's also fun that this appearance is right before Grandparents Day, September 13th, so I'm hoping both proud grandparents *and* parents will stop by to have a copy signed for the youngest readers in their family. There's nothing like sharing the love of reading early with children, and what better way for one generation to bond with the next than to enjoy the experience of hearing a story read aloud--or learning to read themselves--with a beloved family member like a new grandparent? I'm really looking forward to meeting readers, young and old, familiar with my book...or just discovering it for the first time."

Is Your Mama A Llama? sold more than a million copies and has been named in Oprah's Book Club for Kids. It is also on the list of "Top 50 Books for Kids" by the *Early Education Childhood Degrees Association*. The book is available in several editions, languages and is even animated on DVD.

Guarino is originally from New Jersey, having also lived in Manhattan and London. In addition to writing, she is an actor, illustrator, professional speaker and journalist. A single mother of two sons, she has authored several produced plays, short stories and articles for newspapers and magazines, and frequently appears as a visiting author at schools across the country.

Personally autographed paperback and baby board book editions will be available for purchase on the day of the event.

Presents of Mind, an enterprise of Community Options, Inc., is a boutique-style gift shop located at the Mall at 206, on Route 206 South in Flanders, NJ. It is an entrepreneurial business that provides job training and employment to individuals with developmental disabilities. Presents of Mind employs several adults with disabilities as retail associates. They work with cross-trained employment specialists who have experience in both retail and job training. All of the functions of a typical business are incorporated into the training program at Presents of Mind, including sales, inventory, maintenance, and design.

For more information, please contact Presents of Mind at (973) 927-8500.

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About Community Options

For over 25 years, Community Options has developed housing and employment programs for people with disabilities. Community Options operates with a budget over \$107 million and serves thousands of people with disabilities through 38 offices across 9 states. Providing advocacy assistance to empower people with disabilities, Community Options believes that all people –regardless of disability level – should live and work in the community with dignity, choice, and self-determination. A registered PVO with USAID, Community Options is also the pioneer of innovative programs for people with disabilities in the Middle East, Russia, and South America. Please visit our website at www.comop.org.