



Feb. 28, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[See The Shaken Tree movie trailer](#)

## Cal Poly Lecturer's Documentary on Families Living with Mental Illness Screening at SLO Film Festival March 10

SAN LUIS OBISPO – A documentary film made by a Cal Poly Child Psychology Professor will have its world premiere during the 2008 San Luis Obispo Film Festival.

"The Shaken Tree: Families Living with Mental Illness" will be screened Monday, March 10, 7:15 p.m., Downtown Cinemas, 888 Marsh Street, San Luis Obispo.

"The Shaken Tree" was directed by Cal Poly Psychology Professor Mary Garcia-Lemus and produced by Jose Mejia Lemus. Both are Cal Poly graduates and will be at the screening.

" ' The Shaken Tree' gives a voice to families through a collection of interviews, telling stories of life with a loved one who has a mental illness. Families describe the pain, despair and social stigma. They also explain that there is hope. There are ways to survive and live with this life-shaking experience," said Garcia-Lemus.

In December the couple was honored for their work on "The Shaken Tree" by San Luis Obispo Mental Health Board. The couple credit Transitions-Mental Health Association's Family Advocacy Program's Lead Family Advocate Janice Holmes as their "visionary" for the documentary. Holmes was honored in December also.

Funding for this project was provided by private donations from local families and through a generous Mental Health Services Act grant through San Luis Obispo County Mental Health Services.

This is the second documentary produced by the Cal Poly alumni couple. Their first experience in filmmaking was as producer-director of the documentary "Suckerfish," which addressed homelessness in Los Angeles and San Luis Obispo counties. The documentary was screened to a sell-out audience at the 2007 San Luis Obispo International Film Festival.

### ABOUT THE FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM

For eight years, The Family Advocacy/Partners in Hope program at Transitions-Mental Health Association has offered confidential assistance and support, with dignity and respect, to family members and loved ones of persons with or suspect have a mental illness. For more information about the program call Janice Holmes at (805) 541-5144, ext. 171 or email [jholmes@t-mha.org](mailto:jholmes@t-mha.org).

### ABOUT T-MHA

Transitions-Mental Health Association is a non-profit organization that helps children and adults live, work and grow in our community. TMHA operates 27 programs at over 35 locations that reach over 2,000 people and 1,500 families in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties. For more information, visit [www.t-mha.org](http://www.t-mha.org).

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