



Coordinating Council for Children in Crisis, Inc.

Creating Loving Families, Caring Adults and Capable Children

CELEBRATE FAMILY



We appreciate our families

It's not everyday that the staff of CCCC see smiling faces everywhere they turn and hear parents and children laughing freely. This is what makes CCCC's annual Family Appreciation Day so special. It is a time for families to relax and enjoy each other's company. Children love to have their faces painted and compete in potato sack races. They create drawings at the arts & crafts table and get messy decorating cupcakes. It is a stress-free day that helps us recognize family strengths and reinforce positive parenting.

The festivities were at Lighthouse Point Park in New Haven on June 26th. Despite the light rain, over 80 children and parents were in attendance and it was truly a day of family celebration.



Fostering Nurturing Parents

Each week, 15 parents and their babies come together to find solace and stability in CCCC's Nurturing Parenting Group. Its purpose is to educate parents about child development, help them learn parenting skills and foster their bonds with their babies. This new group gives young parents a sense of community while learning about the importance of early childhood development- and it's fun!

"The group fulfills my needs of learning how to take care of my child while keeping myself nurtured at the same time."

- 17 year old mother of an 8 month old baby

"I like coming to the group because I am able to relieve stress. I get to smile, laugh and be me."

- 17 year old mother of 9 month old baby

"The group has helped me through some of the lowest points of my life. They [CCCC staff members and volunteers] relate to us and listen without being judgmental. I am eternally grateful."

- 22 year old mother of 3 month old baby



Parents look forward to the group's fun and interactive activities. For example, one activity uses a "nurturing ball." Parents sit in a circle with their babies and a ball with numbers is rolled back and forth. Each number has a question or instruction associated with it such as "What is your favorite lullaby to sing to your baby?" or "Do something to make your child giggle." Not only do parents and children bond during this activity, but group members become more comfortable with one another and open to sharing their feelings.

Jennifer Punzo, group facilitator, believes the group is "extremely important and necessary for parents who feel disconnected from life and need to learn how to reconnect with themselves and others."



Jennifer says that, "Most of the parents in our group are teenagers who are adjusting to becoming mothers. Our group gives them a space to learn, laugh, ask and grow each week while offering them a hot meal and a positive social environment. It is an outlet that gives them the opportunity to be with other young moms like themselves. I have observed that for most of our parents, group has become the one stable component in their lives."

DEDICATED TO OUR MISSION

To prevent abuse, neglect and victimization across the life span and to serve those affected by providing home visiting and outreach, parenting education, family strengthening activities, counseling and advocacy to children and adults.

Starting the year off right

On August 21st at Dixwell-Yale Community Learning Center, **over 100 children received new backpacks** stuffed with pens, pencils, erasers, rulers, staplers, folders and notebooks. These kids now have the necessary school supplies to prepare them for their new school year. Without our generous donors, the majority would not have a new backpack, or even pens or pencils to carry to school on their first day. Preparing for school, gathering supplies and talking with other children helps them understand that starting school is important and exciting.



The annual Back to School Party was organized by Dasha Spell, CCCC's Integrated Family Violence clinician. Children interacted with the New Haven Fire Department (pictured above) and enjoyed fun activities such as jewelry making (below on right). A reading contest over the summer also encouraged children to discover new books and they received prizes for their efforts at the party.



On left, a smiling young girl receives a new backpack from CCCC's Vanessa Cathey.

Thank you to the following supporters of the Back to School Party. Your donations of backpacks and school supplies made a difference to the children in our programs.

Betty Anderson
Bernadette Bimonte Hackett
Donna Caneshi
Joanne Caneshi
Linda Davy
Sue George
Andi Hallier
Hamden Plains United Methodist Church

Marcie Hill
Junis Hughs
Cheryl Juniewicz
Dennis Kelly
Linda and Ozzie Levene
Steve Levine
Max Lopez
Employees of New Alliance Bank

New Haven Fire Department-
Eng. 6, Div.3
Peabody Museum
Patty Paris
Employees of Proliance International
Bob and Linda Reger
Barbara Saltman
Sarah

St. Clare Church
Kristy Taboada
Amy Ulrich
Keith Wortz
Carol Ziegler
Louise Zito

What's New?

Inauguration of Junior Committee

Young professionals with a belief in our mission form CCCC's first Junior Committee. They will organize and host fundraising events to support our programs and to create awareness about our family strengthening work.

The first event of the Junior Committee will be a costume party on Oct. 25th at Daniel's Street Café in Milford! Details will soon be posted on our website www.ccccnh.org or you can call Kristy Jelenik, development officer at 203.624.2600 ext. 332 for information.

Revamped Website

By November 2008, CCCC will have a new and improved website to display our programs, organizational information, event updates, information about child abuse, neglect and youth empowerment issues and much more.

Preparation for Holiday Adopt-A-Family and Child Program Underway

Every family at CCCC is deserving of a holiday season filled with gifts and food. We make sure this happens for our families every year. To do this, donors are needed to "adopt a family" or "adopt a child" during the upcoming holiday season.

Call Agnes Myers at 203.624.2600 ext. 300. You can select a child or family and are given information about their circumstances and their holiday wish list.

How are you ending child abuse?



- Be a role model for the children in your life.
- Instead of losing control when your child misbehaves, take three deep breaths to calm down and then speak with him/her.
- Baby-sit to give your sibling, friend or neighbor a break.
- Volunteer at an after-school program
- Go to your pre-natal appointments.
- Donate clothing and food to families in need.

You can end child abuse.

CCCC is creating awareness on TV! WTNH Channel 8 and CCCC filmed a Public Service Announcement to send the message "How are you ending child abuse?" The PSA is airing at various times throughout the year on Channel 8. Starting in November, you can also view the PSA on our website- www.ccccnh.org. CCCC hopes to encourage every viewer to join the campaign to end child abuse. This can only be accomplished with your help.



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