



Coordinating Council for Children in Crisis, Inc.

# CELEBRATE FAMILY

Spring 2008 Newsletter

## Hands are not for hitting and Words are not for hurting

CCCC's Child Empowerment Groups are filled with strong, bright and resilient children. It is hard to imagine that they have witnessed and endured domestic violence and child abuse and neglect. This ten week group helps children heal from their histories of family violence through educational and therapeutic activities.

The theme of the groups is "Hands are not for hitting and words are not for hurting." The tree in the pictures to the right holds cut-outs of hands and lips that contain positive statements such as "hug mom", "say I'm sorry", "say I love you", "help people", and "tell a friend she looks pretty". This tree served as a reminder to children in each session that hurtful and violent behaviors are not o.k. and there are many positive and safe ways to express their feelings.

**The children love attending the group.** The attendance rate is over 85% every session. They make friends, share stories and help one another as they navigate their way through difficult topics such as domestic violence, parental separation, controlling their own extreme emotions, and sexual harassment.

The youngsters pictured are proudly holding program completion certificates. They are exiting the program with the knowledge and coping skills to avoid and prevent victimization. They have a new sense of self esteem and confidence to tackle future challenges. CCCC and the Child Empowerment Groups are truly thankful for the generous funding received in the past year from the Marion E. Kenworthy- Sarah H. Swift Foundation and the Community Fund for Women and Girls. This group relies on private funding and CCCC is committed to its continuation so that more vulnerable children receive the help they need to thrive.



### Esteemed New Haven Leaders Join CCCC

CCCC created the Leadership Alliance to help our organization grow. It is comprised of influential members from our community who are compassionate about our mission and motivated to generate awareness of our work as ambassadors of our agency.

We are honored to introduce the members of our Leadership Alliance and look forward to building on our many achievements with their help.

Kyle Ballou, Esq.  
Administrative Director  
Yale-New Haven Hospital

Peter Hicks  
Vice President, Small Business Banking  
Webster Bank

Sally-Byrd Hungerford  
Interior Designer  
Kagan Architecture

Beth Karassik, Ph.D.  
Comprehensive Neuropsychological  
Services

Ted Kopyy  
Co-Anchor  
WTNH TV Channel 8

Michael Scalise  
Executive Director of Cash Management  
Cynergy Cash and Capital

William R. Sloman, II, C.P.A.  
Murphy, Sloman & Company, LLC

Robert S. Reger, Esq., Chairman  
Rolnick & Reger

### 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.



# April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

“Child abuse casts a shadow the length of a lifetime” - Hebert Ward



Parenting is a tough job. There are many days when parents feel stressed, tired or too upset to think straight. Divorce and separation can place added stress and anxiety on parents. These are all contributing factors that can lead to child abuse. Child maltreatment most times happens when parents find themselves in stressful situations and don't know how to cope.

**This April, CCCC urges you to learn how to protect children.**

**If you are feeling overwhelmed and stressed, and need help...**

Call a family member or friend and ask them to baby-sit while you take time for yourself. Don't take it out on your kids.

**If you know someone who needs help...**

Be a friend. Offer to take care of the kids for awhile. Lend an ear and listen without judging. Show you understand.

**If you see a child being abused, hear a child screaming in pain, or notice suspicious bruises, cuts or burn marks on a child...call 911.**

**If you suspect a child is at-risk of abuse or neglect...call the CT hotline number to make a report- 1-800-842-2288. You can choose to remain anonymous.**

**You can make a difference and support children in your community.**

**Be a friend to a child** you know. Remember their name, smile when you talk to them, and ask them about their day at school.

**Talk to your neighbors** about looking out for one another's children.

**Promote violence prevention programs in schools.**

**Volunteer** your time and money for programs that support children and families.

For more information about child abuse and neglect and to learn about ways you can help CCCC's child abuse prevention programs, visit our website at [www.ccccnh.org](http://www.ccccnh.org)

## Ten Alternatives to Lashing Out at Your Child

The next time everyday pressures build up to the point where you feel like lashing out -- STOP! Try any of these simple alternatives. You'll feel better... and so will your child.

- Take a deep breath... and another. Then remember you are the adult.
- Close your eyes and imagine you're hearing what your child is about to hear.
- Press your lips together and count to 10... or better yet, to 20.
- Put *your child* in a time-out chair (remember this rule: one time-out minute for each year of age.)
- Put *yourself* in a time-out chair. Think about why you are angry: is it your child, or is your child simply a convenient target for your anger?
- Phone a friend.
- If someone can watch the child, go outside and take a walk.
- Take a hot bath or splash cold water on your face.
- Hug a pillow.
- Turn on some music. Maybe even sing along.

- Prevent Child Abuse America

## Empowering immigrant women: A misunderstood and under-served population

Ana came to New Haven four years ago in hopes of providing a better life for her children than the poor circumstances she experienced as a child in Mexico. She was in a loving relationship with her boyfriend and was thrilled to find full-time employment immediately. Her dreams of a happy future ended when her boyfriend became abusive and he and his family soon controlled every aspect of Ana's life. She was fearful of leaving the relationship because she didn't speak English, had no support system of nearby friends or family, and believed that it was her obligation to stay and keep her family together. After four years of escalating violence, Ana finally called the police and was introduced to Coordinating Council For Children In Crisis.

Ana is not alone. Many women come to the United States with hopes of finding better jobs and brighter futures for their children and families. Many have been raised in male-dominated households where domestic abuse is normalized and a woman's role is to be an obedient wife and mother. They carry these values to the United States and as a result are vulnerable to abusive relationships. Once maltreated, isolation from family and social supports and language barriers make it difficult for victims to communicate their situation, successfully express their feelings and seek help.

Resources for these women are scarce despite the need, so two Latina CCCC staff members created an educational support group for victimized immigrant women to fill this gap.

Ana and a group of women from Mexico, Guatemala, Colombia and Ecuador gathered weekly for nearly three months to share their experiences, fears and dreams for themselves and their children. They described their experiences crossing the border and their life in the U.S., their identity as Latina women and the cultural beliefs that influenced their domestic violence situations. The peer support they gained was extremely powerful in validating their feelings, developing friendships and strengthening their identities as strong women and capable parents. They learned how to recognize signs of abuse and ways to avoid future victimization.

Ana says that she will always feel guilty for allowing her children to witness her abuse but believes they are on the right track now. She has gained comfort from other group members and the confidence to move to her own apartment, where the children are thriving under her care.

# The power of giving over the holidays

## Adopt-A-Family Program brings joy to 122 families

Hundreds of children had their wishes come true this holiday season, thanks to the generosity of friends, neighbors, civic and church groups and area businesses. Holiday “elves” visited us throughout December with incredible gifts that the staff delivered in time for the holiday. Students from Hamden Hall, pictured below, actually arrived at CCCC on a school bus filled with gift-wrapped packages! Girl Scouts from North Haven, pictured on right, used their savings to purchase thoughtful gifts for young children in CCCC’s Nurturing Families Network. Thank you to them and all of our generous donors listed below who truly made this holiday season memorable for our children and families.



Girl Scouts Troop 160 in North Haven

- |                                  |  |  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Employees of Anthropologie       | Donna Caneschi                               | Mario and Kelly Gaboury                    |  |
| Dotti Arcovitch                  | Joanna Caneschi                              | David Gallagher                            | Betsy Regan                                      |
| Employees of AT&T                | Renata Catheira                              | Paul Garcia                                | Carol Richards                                   |
| Beatta Bagi                      | Clare Cherney                                | Sue George                                 | The family of Joy Rogers                         |
| Tracey Beauregard                | Employees of CT Charts-A-Course              | Girl Scout Troop 160                       | Tina Roth  |
| Billier, Sachs, Raio & Zito      | Mary Alice Conrad                            | Steve and Karen Greenberg                  | RSVP of South Central CT Agency                  |
| Joy Bozzi                        | Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Cook                      | Bernadette Bimonte-Hackett                 | Mark Ruggerio                                    |
| Hilary Brentson                  | Howard and Debra Cornwall                    | The students of Hamden Hall                | Rose Santana                                     |
| Employees of Brookview Financial | Members and staff of Curves for Women-Durham | Hamden Plains United Methodist Church      | The employees of Sargents Manufacturing Company  |
| Colleen Brower                   | Susan Cusano                                 | Lesley Holford                             | Michael and Crystal Scalise                      |
| Michael Broyles                  | Mrs. Robert Davis                            | Maryellen Holford                          | Amy Sherman                                      |
| Karen Butler                     | Dee Dinan                                    | Cheryl Juniewicz                           | Southern CT State University Student Center      |
| Cheryl Burack                    | Jacquelyn Farrell                            | Tom and Denise Kelly                       | Danielle Spadaccino                              |
| Kathy Caliendo                   | Maria Ferrera                                | Linda Levene                               | St. Rita's Church                                |
|                                  |  | Roger Lincoln                              | Amanada Tiernan                                  |
|                                  |  | Francis Massaro                            | The Tobey and Henry Families                     |
|                                  |  | Alisa Masterson                            | Kimberly S. Toby                                 |
|                                  |  | Pamela Matocha                             | Tyler Cooper                                     |
|                                  |  | Noreen McElroy                             | University of New Haven-Dental Hygiene Program   |
|                                  |  | Tracey Meares                              | Wesleyan University- Alumni and Parent Relations |
|                                  |  | Fran Miller                                | Employees of William Raveis                      |
|                                  |  | Mr. and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Naclerio        | Mary Wright                                      |
|                                  |  | Employees of NewAlliance Bank              | Employees of Yale New Haven Rehabilitation       |
|                                  |  | Our Lady of the Assumption- Ladies Guild   | Louise Zito                                      |
|                                  |  | Powerflow Pilates                          | Elizabeth Zemetis                                |
|                                  |  | Employees of Proliance International       | Laura Zullo                                      |
|                                  |  | Darlene Ragozzine                          |  |
|                                  |  | Employees of The Hospital of Saint Raphael |  |



Students from Hamden Hall donated and delivered holiday gifts to CCCC

## Basket Brigade provides Thanksgiving meals to 350 families

Thanks to the generosity of the following individuals, struggling families from Bridgeport, West Haven and New Haven, including 60 families served by CCCC, were able to celebrate Thanksgiving with delicious food and with the knowledge that people care. One mother commented about her family’s food delivery: **“Your kindness made a BIG difference to our holiday season. The basket of wonderful food was greatly appreciated! Thank you!”**

- |                               |                           |                            |                           |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| All About Art, LLC            | Judith Evans              | Irene Lacoursiere          | Tanase Palavra            | David W. Sloan            |
| Alsacia Partners              | Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Eyster | Lindsey Lamb               | Marie Panico              | John Sottery              |
| Gene Banks                    | Christine Farrell         | Donna Lancia               | Dale Pixley               | Elinor Taylor             |
| Mary Blake                    | Denise Fagan              | Andrew Leonard             | Precision Resources       | Deborah Thunberg          |
| Blood, Sweat & Gears Car Club | John Felizardo            | David Lipton               | Michael Quintner          | TJs Autobody and Sales    |
| Frank Briganti                | J.H. & J.F. Flynn         | Donald and Lois Jean Logan | Rel-Tech Electronics      | Triple Crown Real Estate  |
| Sara B. Caraszi               | Victor Frazao             | Louise Hair Studio         | Recordacoes De Portugal   | Jean Tuomey               |
| John F. Coelho                | Ana Marie Gomes           | Keith Macintosh            | Remax                     | Santhalakshmi Vengadessan |
| Crossmedia Creative Group     | The GRI Marketing Group   | Sid and Miriam Madwed      | Robert Riskin, CPA, PC    | John E. Vibbert           |
| Philip J. DeJesus, DDS        | Horacio & Filomena Neves  | Melanie and Marco Miranda  | David A. Rosenstein       | David Wakefield           |
| Stacey DellDonna              | Joseph Howard             | Arthur R. Monteiro         | Rotary Club of Milford CT | R. Vance Ward             |
| Luis Delria                   | Howard Hull               | Laura Moreno               | Richard J. Rua            | John Wooster              |
| Karen A. Diana                | J.A. Jacobson             | M.G. Berger Inc.           | Colleen R. Sartor         | Francis Daves             |
| Discovery Partners LLC        | Janet James               | Christine Niedermeier      | Stuart Schloss            |                           |
| Richard Doherty               | J.V. Excavation and Sewer | Robert Nozik               | Laurie Skornia            |                           |
| The DSA Companies             | Pamela Karpen             | Lucinda Nugent             | John Sottery              |                           |
| Diane L. Essary               | Lionel Ketchian           | Nunes Autobody and Sales   |                           |                           |
|                               | Tamara Krosky             |                            |                           |                           |

# Raising Domestic Violence Awareness in the Dental Community

Dentists and dental staff members are in a unique position to recognize and help victims of domestic violence. Unfortunately, a uniform system does not exist in the dental community to identify abuse and many dental office employees are unaware of the necessary actions needed to support victimized women.

In response, Jack Levine DDS, CCCC Board member and Jacquelyn Farrell, Assistant Director at CCCC spearheaded an effort to increase awareness about domestic violence among dental offices in the Greater New Haven area. Ms. Farrell secured the support and expertise from the Community Educator at the Domestic Violence Services of Greater New Haven and from the Professor of Forensic Nursing at Quinnipiac University. This team of child welfare and domestic violence experts made a presentation at the February New Haven Dental Association meeting which outlined the following information: Reasons dentists need to be aware of domestic violence; How to ask victims about their experience; Recognizing signs and symptoms of domestic abuse; Validating patient's feelings and concerns; Documenting signs of abuse in dental records; and Referral sources.

The team made available a DVD tutorial, created by the Family Violence Prevention Fund, which takes dentists step by step through the process of identifying abuse victims to directing them to appropriate service providers for help. The interactive component of the tutorial is especially helpful and provides scenarios to foster better understanding of domestic abuse signs and ways to help.

For more information and to learn how your office can receive domestic violence awareness training, please call CCCC at 203.624.2600 ext. 303.



**SAVE THE  
DATE!**

**Richard Manware  
Humanitarian  
Award Breakfast**

Tuesday, April 29, 2008  
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM  
Oak Lane Country Club

**2008 Honoree:**

Laurie Meadoff,  
Founder of CityKids Foundation

Moderated by Ted Kopyy,  
News Channel 8 Co-Anchor

Musical Performance by  
New Haven CityKids Alumni

Call 203.624.2600 ext. 303 for ticket and  
sponsorship information.

## COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN IN CRISIS

131 Dwight Street New Haven, CT 06511 [www.ccccnh.org](http://www.ccccnh.org) 203.624.2600



**Coordinating Council for Children in Crisis**  
131 Dwight Street  
New Haven, CT 06511

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
New Haven, CT  
Permit No. 369

