

WHERE KIDS GET HELP

182 YEARS
GOING STRONG

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

From Dan Lyga, Chief Executive Officer



The term "Social Media" is a relatively new concept in the context of marketing and communication. Yet when attempting to "get the message out" it has become an extraordinarily powerful tool, and one which The Children's Center of Hamden has begun to use with greater frequency. As we continually seek to make known the array of services we provide to youth and families in need, and the positive impact achieved, we have recently begun to increase our efforts in the use of social media as a vehicle for this purpose.

In June the Agency was excited to relaunch the Children's Center's Facebook Page. By using Facebook as an outlet, it enables us to share more information about the work we do and reach out to people in a new way. New posts are published daily and include agency and program updates, employee highlights, and news regarding fundraising events.

It has been especially rewarding to hear from Children's Center alumni, many of whom are now well into adulthood. These individuals, some who are now in their 30's and 40's, are providing us with updates on how they are doing, sharing memories of their experience at the Center, and inquiring about the adults who had made such a significant impact on their development.

Ultimately, our hope is that by broadening our reach through social networking it will help us become a more effective resource to both our community and Connecticut, and we encourage you to help us make that happen! Please spread the word, 'Like' us and tell your friends to do so as well. You can find us by searching: Children's Center of Hamden.

- Krista Hart, President**
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- Tina Garrity, Secretary**
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The Children's Center of Hamden and Quinnipiac University are about 6 miles apart but the generosity and caring of the Kappa Delta Sorority, Theta Alpha Chapter has brought these two campuses much closer together. The Sorority raises funds by hosting a weeklong "Shamrock" event that ends with a tug of war competition. The motto of the event is "We pull today for their tomorrow" and has donated the proceeds of their efforts to The Children's Center since 2013. Nicole Filardi, Vice President of Member Education recently brought Sorority sisters to The Children's Center to learn more about how their donations have enhanced services. Pictured is a sign paid for by donations from the Sorority and painted by a youth who receives substance abuse treatment at the Center's Wakeman Hall program. It communicates that all are welcome. As a thank you gift, Dan Lyga, Chief Executive Officer at The Center gave them a copy of a song created by an agency youth in The Center's recording studio (words listed below). All equipment and music classes were purchased due to a donation by the Sorority. Approximately 70 youth a year will have opportunities to create and express themselves with music thanks to the kindness of their neighbors, 6 miles away.

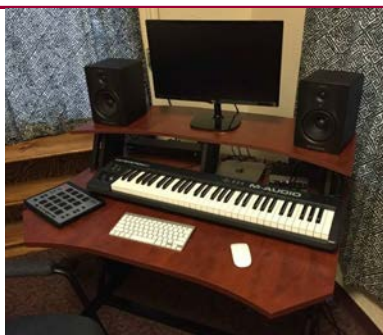
WHAT AN ALUMNI SAYS...

I was a former member at the New Choices program. Staff introduced me to the music studio and I literally just sat in there for hours playing with it. A few weeks later a staff walked in and was feeling the beat so we decided to write the song "Lost and Found." After that song was written I was excited because staff told me about this concert. This experience has changed my life in a positive way because in that studio I felt as if I could release my thoughts and inner feelings in a positive way. Just cause of this experience I have changed my future job from being a mechanic because I'm good with my hands to being a producer.



Lost and Found

*I was lost, before found
Picked my face up off the ground
Had to define what was really me
I guess I didn't have the energy
Too much, Too late
Too fast, can't wait
For another chance to get away
Found my way to escape
All the misery, and the disbelief
My body's breaking down, I feel dope sick
Can somebody turn my life around,
I need hope quick
I'm convinced I can change*



2015 GOLF CLASSIC



We are grateful to have so many wonderful friends in the community who have given our kids some great opportunities! Thanks for caring!

LUNCHEON & HORS D'OEUVRES

Stearns Bryant, Jr.

COCKTAILS/OPEN BAR

David Ladd

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MAKING A POSITIVE STAMP ON THE LIVES OF OUR KIDS

KHAIR (pronounced "care") serves at-risk youths by pairing them with hairstylists and barbers who will commit to complimentary services. The program emphasizes one-on-one mentor/youth relationships combined with a range of individual and group activities, including self-concept and self-esteem-building workshops. The program helps young people not only learn about grooming to improve their appearance, but it also provides positive adult role models who are successful business people and who demonstrate healthy ways to relate to others.

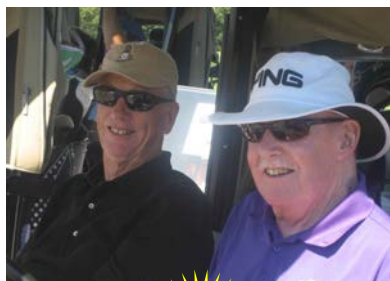


CT BALLET

Brazilian Dance Artist, Thelma comes every Wednesday to work with the girls. This is an 8 week program that will end the week before Thanksgiving. The CT Ballet offers various types of dance artists to work with this population. Thelma not only focuses on teaching new dance styles but the girls get exposed to a different culture. They are learning about the Carnival (pronounced with an accent) in Brazil and the various types of dance. Thelma also incorporates stretching and mini-workout at the beginning of the session to encourage health and fitness.



(above left) Over the last several years, the UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAVEN basketball team has run a clinic for the children and youth at The Center. The kids enjoyed the skills they were taught as did the players with their interaction. (above middle) SARAH, INC.. had a Christmas celebration and giving tree in July. Clients, employees and friends contributed beach towels, flip flops, summer games, just to name a few items. (bottom left) SOUTHWEST CONSERVATION DISTRICT Executive Director Roman Mrozinski and staff delivered 25 pumpkins for decorating. (above right) HAMDEN WOMEN'S CLUB made popcorn hands with candy corn nails topped off with a bat, skeleton or spider ring.



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Pam Galasso, Registered Dietitian

The Granthams

The Children's Center of Hamden is a private non-profit organization supported by charitable contributions from individuals, businesses and organizations.



A Super Success!!

Thank you to players and sponsors for participating in our 2015 Golf Classic. We netted over \$13,000 and we especially thank our vendors for adding to the success of the event. We have been pleased with the service of these vendors and we recommend that if you are looking for a specific service please consider utilizing their services as we do.

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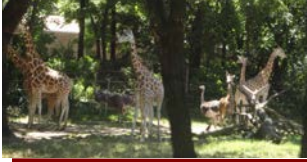


WHERE KIDS GET HELP



WHERE HAVE WE BEEN???

CoCo Keys Water Resort, Six Flags Amusement Park; Lake Compounce, Bronx Zoo, Connecticut Golf Center, Chuck E. Cheese, Movies, Roller Magic, Nomads Arcade, Stepping Stone Museum, Various State Parks, Sports Center, West Haven Beach, Skate Park in West Haven, Yale Art Gallery, Air & Submarine Museum



Your support helps bring exciting new experiences for the children and youth that we serve. Educational, cultural and therapeutic opportunities help them to be happy and find personal success...making tomorrow a much better place. Interested in helping to fund a program, buy clothing or fund a recreational club or activity for youth? Please contact Diane Surprenant, 203-248-2116, ext. 266 or email at dbsurprenant@tccoh.org.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

HORSES FOR HEALING

This program provides an intensive and integrative treatment experience for participating youth. An equine specialist and equine partner help the youth learn basic riding skills as well as directly provide care and upkeep to the horses and the stables where they reside. As youth learn to handle and earn the affection of the horse they are assigned to, issues relating to self-esteem, anxiety and depression, trust and relationships are subtly and effectively addressed and an enormous positive result is witnessed by all.

A special thanks to the Netter Foundation and Friends of Jimmy Müller for their continued substantial support to these two programs.



WORK PROGRAM

Youth who are 14 and over in both Residential Treatment and the START Programs participate in the Summer Work Program. The program strives to teach youth work ethics from time and attendance, following direction from a Supervisor in the work world to taking pride in their accomplishments. In addition to work projects on the grounds of The Children's Center of Hamden, many of the work groups perform community service and work in soup kitchens, at the Free Store in New Haven and cleaning area parks. The older youth have the opportunity to be Counselors-in-Training for the younger children in the Summer Camp Program. The youth are encouraged to save money through an on grounds banking system that provides opportunity for youth to learn the art of budgeting.



"CHOPPED" CONTEST

Culinary skills were put to the test. The therapeutic recreation department held their own version of the Chopped reality show with the residential programs participating. They each received their box of ingredients and prepared a meal from appetizer to dessert. They were judged on presentation and taste.



WHITNEY HALL SCHOOL

Whitney Hall School acquired some new signage for the school building! It looks great & is visible to passersby on the school's exterior facing Whitney Avenue. If you're in the area keep an eye out for it!

Did You Know? ... Whitney Hall School educates students, Kindergarten-12+, who live in the community, but are challenged with behavioral, psychiatric & learning difficulties requiring a small classroom setting. Students are referred to the program by their local school systems. The purpose of the program is to help students obtain skills & learning strategies to manage their own behaviors so they can return to a public school setting. For more information or to make a referral, please contact Jennifer Kazdan at (203) 248-2116, Ext 332 or jkazdan@tccoh.org

MARCY/START GETS A NEW LOOK

Old landscaping removed and new shrubs and trees are planted to beautify the outside of the cottage.



1400 Whitney Avenue
Hamden, CT 06517

Phone: 203-248-2116
Fax: 203-248-9339
www.tccoh.org

*Mending Young Hearts and Minds
Since 1833*

THE CHILDREN'S CENTER OF HAMDEN

PROGRAMS PROVIDED

The children and families who are referred to us have a wide array of problems and issues with which to deal. That's why The Children's Center of Hamden has an equally wide array of services to help them.

Crisis Stabilization (C.A.R.E.) Therapeutic Group Home (Gate House) Residential Treatment Whitney Hall School (K-12) Kids Cottage (SFit)
Substance Abuse Residential Treatment (New Choices) Extended Day Treatment Acute Residential (S.T.A.R.T.) Wakeman Hall Outpatient Substance Abuse

YOUR CARING HELPS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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Charitable Bequests

When creating your last will and testament, including general or specific bequest language for gifts large and small bequeathed to The Children's Center of Hamden will help us continue to make a difference in the community.

Easy Way To Send a Gift

Consider making a contribution by credit card. Visit our website at www.tccoh.org. Under "Make a Contribution" you can secure an on line form using PayPal.

Matching Gifts

Many large companies have a program that will match their employees donation to a charitable organization. Please consider this opportune way to double the value of your donation.

In Honor or Memory of

Having a birthday, special anniversary, want to remember a loved one or to recognize a friend? A donation in their name is a wonderful way to give a gift.



Please help us spread the word & invite your friends to 'Like' us on Facebook! Only by expanding & broadening our reach can we bring our services & resources to more people! That's where we need your help. Please access the tab on our facebook page that reads 'Invite Friends to Like this Page' & send invites out to people in your Friend's List! It's that easy!

12% ADDS UP!



The Children's Center of Hamden continues to partner with Helping Hands Community Thrift Store & Furniture Bank. Donate your items and designate the item to be credited to The Children's Center. When that item is sold we receive 12% of the sale price.

Helping Hands is located at 334 Boston Post Road, Orange. You can reach them at (203) 298-0499. Visit their website for donated items that they accept at www.helpinghandsctfb.com

Inquiries, contributions or donations may be directed to: Diane Bell Surprenant, Director of Personnel & Development (203) 248-2116, ext. 266
email: dbsurprenant@tccoh.org