Head Start pre-school registration ongoing for current year & September openings

WEST HAVEN (Feb. 6, 2012) – The West Haven Community House is now accepting applications for children ages 3- and 4-years-old to enroll in its comprehensive Head Start preschool program.

Currently, there are limited openings for ongoing classes in the current school year, with a greater number of openings for Head Start classes that will begin in September 2012.

Each year, the Community House’s Head Start program helps nearly 200 children prepare for success in kindergarten and their school career beyond preschool, said Head Start Director Abel Padro.

Unlike other traditional child care programs, the family friendly West Haven Head Start program not only provides a high quality experience for the enrolled child but also activities for the family.

Enrollment is open to families that: live in West Haven; have a child who will be 3- or 4-years old before Jan. 1, 2012 for the current school year and before Jan. 1, 2013 for classes that begin in the Fall, and, meet income eligibility guidelines.

Part day, part year classes operate from September to June. These classes are free to families who meet income guidelines. Free breakfast and/or lunch is provided and classes meet: 8 – 11:30 a.m., noon to 3:30 p.m., 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., and, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for part day classes.
Full day, full year classes operate Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., year-round. Parents must work or attend school in a state approved program full-time to be eligible for the full year program. Affordable, sliding scale fees are charged for the full day program and Care 4 Kids assistance is accepted.

According to Viola Waldo, Head Start’s Family Services Manager, “Children in our preschool program are engaged in creative activities, music, individual and group play, field trips, literacy activities, and other activities designed to promote physical, mental, social and emotional development.

“Parents and other family members are offered opportunities to participate in classroom activities, child development workshops, craft activities, first aid training, GED and ESL classes, as well as informal gatherings,” she said.

Also, each Head Start family has a family worker available to them to provide advocacy and supportive services. Services for children with special needs are available, and vision, hearing and developmental screenings are provided for all enrolled children.

“We urge families with eligible 3- and 4-year-old children to register as soon as possible to ensure your child’s placement,” said Padro. “With limited spaces available, the openings will fill up fast.”

Padro noted that Head Start teaching staff are professionally trained and certified in administering medication, CPR, and Pediatric First Aid. The program has been recognized nationally and locally for the quality of services provided to children and their families and is licensed by the State of CT Department of Education and accredited by the National Academy for the Education of the Young Child.

Anyone interested in more information about the program or the application process, call the Head Start office at (203) 934-5221, ext. 135.

- 30 -