FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stacie Phan is named Community House board president; Four new board members appointed at Annual Meeting

WEST HAVEN (July 1, 2013) – Outgoing West Haven Community House Board President Richard Bruno delivered his farewell remarks at the agency’s Annual Meeting recently, while Stacie Phan officially began her term leading the agency’s 30+ member governing body.

Phan is the Associate Director of Public Policy at Boehringer-Ingelhelm, among the world’s leading pharmaceutical companies. She assumes the board presidency after serving as first vice president.

Bruno noted, “Stacie has served our board well as Vice President for the past several years and I have every confidence that the transition to her leadership will be smooth.

“As I look around this room today, I cannot help but think how the Community House has grown through the years, and I cannot thank everyone enough for your part in this growth,” Bruno said.

“Like you, I feel a sense of pride in what has been accomplished since our founding in 1941, as we all ‘stand together’ for the good of our community.

“We stand together helping at-risk pre-school children get ready for kindergarten.

“We stand together helping make lives better for adults with developmental disabilities.

“We stand together helping families cope with child care issues in the critical hours before and after school, and we do so in the face of dwindling government resources and a less than robust economy.

“We stand together – all of us – city government leaders, school officials, civic organizations, families, mothers and fathers, children, our staff and our board members, all of us in West Haven standing together making lives better.

“So even though my term as board president is ending, I am pleased to tell you that I will continue to stand together – with Stacie and the board – with [Executive Director] Patty [Stevens] and her staff, and with all of you as we continue the mission that started 72 years ago in 1941 when the Community House was founded.”
Also at the Annual Meeting, several new board of directors members were introduced, including Paul Bauer, Attorney Mark Healey, Heatherly Carlson, Dennis Kopic and Cathy Geremia.

Bauer recently retired after more than 30 years in the city of West Haven’s Community Development office. “Paul brings a wealth of knowledge and community contacts with him,” noted Stevens.

Attorney Healey is another well known and respected community leader who earned a B.A. degree in Economics at Hamilton College and his law degree at Case Western Reserve University. In 1992, he opened his own law practice on Savin Avenue and currently is the president of the West Haven Bar Association, a member of the New Haven Bar Association, the Connecticut Bar Association, Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association, and the American Association for Justice.

Carlson is a Research Coordinator with Yale’s Department of Psychiatry located at the Veteran’s Administration Hospital in West Haven. She earned her M.A. degree in psychology from Southern CT State University. She has also been affiliated with Big Brothers Big Sisters, The Leukemia Society, and New Haven Reads. Within the Community House itself, she a former chair of the Head Start Policy Council here.

Kopec brings a wealth of accountant expertise to the board as a self employed principal at Sea Bluff Accounting, which specializes in general bookkeeping and payroll services for small businesses. A graduate of Quinnipiac University, he is a member of the National Association of Tax Professionals and the Institute of Management Accountants.

Geremia is a West Haven resident and preschool child care provider.

“Each of our new board members brings their own particular strengths and expertise to our board,” Phan said, “and I look forward to working with each new member as well as our remaining board members who have served so well for so long on behalf of all of West Haven.”

In addition to Phan, the board approved its new slate of officers are the Annual Meeting, including: Ken Prisco – First Vice President; Bill Heffernan, III – Second Vice President; John F. Onofrio – Treasurer; Gene F. Sullivan – Secretary, and, Katie Heffernan – Assistant Secretary.