



West Haven Community House  
227 Elm Street, West Haven, CT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **West Haven Community House presents its annual ‘Forever Friends’ awards in June**

WEST HAVEN (July 21, 2014) – The West Haven Community honored a local family, a father & son, two area college coaches, a family foundation, several New Haven retirement communities and two local businesses as part of the agency’s Annual Board Meeting held in June at its 227 Elm Street main campus.

Members of the McLaughlin family - Brian (Dad), John (son) and Jeanette (daughter) - representing the School Age Program, presented “Forever Friends” awards to Shaunnaya Williams, Head Coach/UNH women’s track team, and her assistant coach, Alaric Best, who were recognized for their work with the agency’s child care programs. UNH volunteers provided after-school homework help and entertainment at various program locations including Molloy, Carrigan, Washington, Pagels and Savin Rock schools.

In addition, UNH students helped organize and run a Fall Festival – where all of the agency’s after school programs came together on the UNH campus to participate in a fair/festival at the end of October, program event that all hope will continue for many years.

Disability Services Program Manager Keri McLaughlin then presented awards to the father and son team of James and Jamie Jerrell, who for many years have provided volunteer disc jockey



**Father and son James and Jamie Jerrell of West Haven accept a “Forever Friends” plaque from Keri McLaughlin, Disability Day Services Program Manager, far right, while Community House Board President Stacie Phan looks on, left.**



**Shaunnaya Williams, Head Coach/UNH women’s track team, right, and her assistant coach, Alaric Best.**

services for the program’s annual Halloween party. The duo provides music to participating clients who are dressed in costume in what has become one of the favorite special events of the year.

Next, Head Start Director Abel Padro recognized several “in-kind donation” partners in the local senior citizen community, including the South Central CT Retired Senior and Volunteer Program (RSVP) and volunteers from Bella Vista senior homes in New Haven and the Davenport-Dunbar Residence of Hamden. Volunteers knitted hats, mittens and scarves benefitting Head Start pre-school children and their families.

Marketing and Special Events Director Kathy Hart-Jones and Development & Facilities Director Chris Carroll then presented awards to the family of Michelle Caprio, and to The Werth Family Foundation.

Caprio family members were cited for their efforts in helping organize the agency’s first-ever Health & Wellness Fair, part of the 2013 Family Fun Walk special event. The Werth Family Foundation, represented by Suzanne Werth, was thanked for its three major grant donations supporting the Positive Youth Development/Kids in the Neighborhood after school program.

Next, Betty DelVecchio and Peter Macchiarelli of Flower Affair on

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## The Walking Warriors

### Disability Services

(Pictured at left and celebrating their award, below.)

## Awards made during Annual Board Meeting -

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Campbell Avenue were presented with plaques for their in-kind gift-wrapping services in support of the annual “A Night at the Races” fundraising event each April. Their efforts help the event raffle be a tremendous success each year.

Another area business, the Target Corp., was cited for providing a “literacy” grant to our Head Start program via the Target corporate foundation. Target grant funding was used to support the highly successful “Read Across America” effort last February. In addition, this past May Target store volunteers were at 227 Elm Street as part of the United Way of Greater New Haven’s special volunteer “spring cleanup” day.

The final award was an “Inside Job Well Done” to the Walking Warriors and its inspirational leader, Disability Services Director Marie Watson, and her event committee for the program’s successful fundraising and organizational efforts. The Walking Warriors raised the most money for a team, and had the most event walkers at the October 2013 event.



On behalf of Board, management and Community House staff, the agency extends its congratulations to all its fiscal year 2013-14 award winners.

The West Haven Community House is a not-for-profit agency with a Head Start pre-school, school age before and after school child care programs, and an enrichment ‘Day’ and residential programs for adults with disabilities.

For more information about this release, please contact Development and Facilities Director Chris Carroll at (203) 934-5221, ext. 133.



Helping make award presentations on behalf of the School Age Programs were members of the McLaughlin family: Brian (Dad), John (son) and Jeanette (daughter).



The Caprio family with Events Director Kathy Hart-Jones, at right, with Mom Michelle Caprio, center. Many thanks!