November 11, 2011

To all our Friends in the Greater West Haven Community:

Although we have been a fixture in West Haven for more than 70 years, I am often asked, “What exactly is the West Haven Community House?” It is a question with many answers.

If you ask the parent of a pre-school child in our Head Start program, they might say that we carefully guided their child’s first steps into the wonderful and exciting world of education. For parents whose children are enrolled in our School Age Child Care (SACC) or Kids in the Neighborhood (KIN) programs, they might say that we gave them “peace of mind” in knowing that we provided a safe and healthy environment where their child was enriched while having fun.

For the relatives of adult clients with learning disabilities, we might be described as a “trusted family partner,” ensuring that their loved one was safe, happy and able to build upon their independent living skills, as well as experience the community at-large around them.

So I can say that the Community House is all of the above, and as we approach the holiday season, I am requesting your support. If possible, please return the enclosed envelope with a donation so that we can continue to serve the citizens of West Haven.

I would like to share two stories from our thousands of examples of service to children and families in West Haven. As you can read in the attached piece, Jackie’s story with the Community House goes back to when she was 4-years-old. As a young child coming from a Spanish-only speaking family, Jackie was enrolled in our Head Start program and it’s been a very happy story all around since then.

But not all families are blessed with good fortune. Yet another family with two children in our School Age Child Care program suffered a family setback in the Fall of 2010 into 2011, including a very emotional departure of the father from the household due to personal issues. Yet, the Community House staff was there for this family, ensuring that the children continued to receive our services on a scholarship basis, as well as ongoing emotional support, and a happy holiday.

I hope you agree with me that the West Haven Community House is dedicated to providing the citizens of West Haven – from pre-school toddlers and school-aged children – to adults in our residential and day programs – with the best possible services.

On behalf of the Board, staff and clients we serve, I thank you for your consideration of a donation, and wish you a safe and happy holiday season, and a prosperous New Year in 2012.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Bruno
President, Board of Directors