City resident Abel Padro is named director of Community House’s Head Start program

WEST HAVEN (Nov. 1, 2011) - West Haven resident Abel Padro was recently named the director of the Head Start program at the West Haven Community House, replacing Linda Michaels, who retired after 30+ years at the agency.

Patty Stevens, executive director of the Community House, said, “Abel has had a long and successful career in Head Start and early childhood education.

“Abel was the first Executive Director of LULAC Head Start in New Haven, serving in that capacity for almost 20 years before moving on to the United Way of Eastern Fairfield County, where he was the Director of the ‘Success by 6 Initiative.’

“His most recent employment was with ABCD Inc. in Bridgeport where he was the associate director of the Early Learning Division. He also was a Federal Review Consultant, EDC consultant and a consultant for the Head Start Region I in Boston.

“We are very pleased to be able to welcome someone with Abel’s vast experience in early childhood education to our management team, as well as someone with deep roots in our West Haven community,” Stevens said.

Padro said, “I am very happy to be back in West Haven and working for the Community House, which has a long tradition of offering excellent services to city residents, including our Head Start program.”

The Community House’s Head Start program serves more than 160 pre-school aged children and their families with full-day, full-year programs on a sliding scale fee basis for the children of parents who are working or going to school. Care 4 Kids child care assistance is also accepted and part-day school programs are also available.

The program is licensed by the state of Connecticut and accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children for more than 25 years.

For more information on the Head Start program, call (203) 934-5221, ext. 135, or visit the Community House web site at: http://www.whcommunityhouse.org.

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