Southern students play ‘Minute to Win It’ with WHCH students & family on Nov. 14

WEST HAVEN (Dec. 1, 2012) – The West Haven Community House’s School Age Child Care (SACC) program partnered again with students from Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) on Nov. 14, 2012, for a night of fun and games for clients and families at Westwoods in West Haven.

In what is becoming an annual tradition with the Recreation and Leisure major study students from SCSU, nearly 200 SACC program students and family members tested their skills in a variety of challenging games modeled after the popular “Minute to Win It” television show.

The first order of business was for all to enjoy a catered dinner featuring spaghetti, salad and dessert. After dinner, contestants young and old took part in a series of 60-second games and challenges that used common household objects as game props, all modeled after the popular NBC-TV series.

The evening was organized and planned by students from Deb Smith’s Recreation and Leisure studies classes at the area college. Smith has affiliated her college students with the SACC program for the past three years in what has become a win-win situation for both the students and clients at the Community House.

“Our students benefit tremendously from a real world experience in organizing an evening of fun and games for a community audience,” Smith noted. “It’s one thing to study a subject in a classroom setting, but quite another to be able to go into a community, meet people, plan an event, do the necessary things like raising sponsorship money and setting up the venue, and then actually running the event with a live audience.

“I am so proud of our students,” Smith continued. “They did a great job start to finish.”

SACC program Director Carol James was also effusive in her praise, citing the fact that the students run the show virtually by themselves. “It’s nice to be able to have this resource available for our program,” James said. “The students did a tremendous job again this year and our kids and families really enjoyed themselves.”

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The School Age Child Care program aids several hundred working families in West Haven by providing before and after school child care for their elementary school-aged children. Fun individual and group activities, ‘free time,’ outdoor play and meaningful learning experiences are provided in a safe and creative atmosphere that encourages personal growth and social interaction.

Care between 7 a.m. and school start, and from school dismissal to 6 p.m. during school days is provided at six neighborhood elementary schools: Carrigan, Pagels, Savin Rock, Seth Haley, and Washington. Any West Haven elementary school child is eligible to attend, with bus transportation provided between sites.

The associated KinderKlub program provides extended care to children enrolled in half-day kindergarten and operates between the hours of 8:30 am and 12:00 pm and 11:30 am and 3:30 pm. A summer program is available for children grades K-5.

“We’re really looking forward to working with Deb and her students again in the Fall of 2013,” James said.