



## West Haven Community House

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### Multicultural Event Brings Hundreds of West Haven Students and Families Together

West Haven, CT—(June 26, 2019) More than 300 family members attended a Multicultural Family Night in May presented by the West Haven Community House's (WHCH) before and after school child care program. Guests were entertained by students who researched and performed a song or dance representing a variety of cultures from around the globe. The Community House's Children and Youth Services program offers before and after school care in seven West Haven school sites.



Each site chose a country to represent including Italy, Egypt, Morocco, Ghana, Australia, Ireland, Africa, Jamaica and Mexico. The event brought together many different cultural worlds honoring the diverse population of the West Haven community. Giant, colorful display boards showcasing the students' work was the back drop for the student performers at the event held at Ceilo Ballroom, West Haven's Italian American club.

"We had students perform dances from Mexico, songs from Italy, poems from Ireland, as well as students who were 'costumed' as indigenous species from Australia and the Great Barrier Reef, and children from the Philippine American

Association performed a traditional folk dance for the packed audience," said Carol James, WHCH Children & Youth Services director.

"Students from Carrigan Intermediate showed a film that they produced and directed based on the book '*I am the World*', by Charles R. Smith Jr., which included a selection of bloopers that brought on a lot of laughter. Another site made a video of each student talking about their customs. Africa was represented by the kindergartners who performed and danced to the book '*Cha Cha Chimps*', by Julia Durango. The book was a great example of how literature can be used to teach math while dancing to a variety of rhythms", she continued.

The out-of-school program provides high-quality, affordable before and after school care for working families in West Haven giving parents peace of mind knowing that

their child has a safe, constructive place to be before and after school. It provides academic enrichment

learning activities focused on STEAM (*Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math*) and literacy adapted to meet various developmental levels and interests. Activities include homework help, computer use, arts & crafts; science; cultural explorations; free play with age-appropriate games and toys; gym and outdoor play; language, drama, music, service learning, and leadership development. All West Haven public elementary and intermediate school students are eligible to attend with bus transportation provided between sites. Visit [whcommunityhouse.org](http://whcommunityhouse.org) or call (203) 934-5221 x123.



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**About the West Haven Community House:** For 75 years, the Community House has been the cornerstone social service agency of West Haven with programs including Head Start, a quality school readiness program for children from income-eligible families; Children & Youth Services, a before and after-school and summer program for school-aged children; and Community Connections day and residential program for people with intellectual disabilities.