West Haven’s ‘Early Childhood Initiative’ welcomes families, children to attend Oct. 3 ‘Toddler Time’ party

WEST HAVEN (Sept. 24, 2012) – Parents of West Haven toddlers take note: if your 1-, 2- or 3-year-old child is celebrating a birthday in October, November or December of this year, then the city’s Early Childhood Initiative has a “Toddler Time” party for your family to attend.

West Haven Community House Executive Director Patty Stevens recently announced that the William Graustein Memorial Fund has awarded a $10,000 grant to the West Haven Childhood Initiative partnership. The grant is “to locate, identify and refer as early as possible West Haven children under the age of 5 who can benefit from an early learning program, including preschool or other programs of early intervention” where needs assessment and other services can also be introduced to the families.

Therefore, in the effort to reach out and locate these families, a once-a-month “celebration and party” is being planned to provide both fun activities for the young children, but also to share information about health, educational and other services available in the city to families.

The first “Toddler Time” party for any child who turns 1, 2 or 3-years-old in October is planned from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Oct. 3 at the Savin Rock School Family Resource Center (FRC) site, 50 Park St., West Haven. Other celebrations are planned for Nov. 7, Dec. 5 and Jan. 2, 2013, for children with birthdays in those months at the same time and site.

“Any family with a child turning 1, 2 or 3 is welcome to attend and there is no charge,” Stevens said. Food and refreshments will be served, and fun activities for all the children are planned.

“We are hoping that this will be a collaborative effort and one that works toward ensuring that all West Haven children will be ready for school by age five and successful learners throughout their school years,” Steven said. She added that Jean Vitale, executive director of the Family Resource Center, local consultant Tricia Godfrey, and the Community House staff are all closely working together to organize and to help get the word out.

“We are excited to share this news with West Haven families and the early childhood provider community, and we look forward to and encourage everyone’s participation in this project,” Stevens said.

For more information, or to make a reservation to attend the Oc. 3 “Toddler Time” party, contact the Community House at (203) 934-5221, or Godfrey at the FRC at (203) 931-4739.

- 30 -

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