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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The Fairfield County Foundation awards \$9,094 to Norwalk Housing Authority for Summer Pilot Program – *Bridge to College***

NORWALK -- Norwalk Housing Authority was awarded a grant in the amount of \$9,094 to support its summer pilot initiative, *Bridge to College Program*. The program will serve middle school and high school youth residing in public housing and Section 8 youth in Norwalk. The aim of the program is to provide supports that will encourage youth to remain in school and to create a link between the Norwalk Housing Authority 20 West Avenue Learning Center and the Norwalk Housing Foundation College Scholarship Awards Program, which supports the financial needs of public housing youth who desire to pursue a college education.

The eight-week summer program will include three hours daily of college planning and readiness activities along with four day-trips to colleges. According to Program Coordinator, Carla Conway, “We believe the program will instill public housing and Section 8 youth with the motivation and tools to remain in high school while working hard with their academics. In addition, the program will provide students with the much needed support and materials for completing college applications and scholarship applications. Last year the Norwalk Housing Foundation College Scholarship Awards Program awarded 32 scholarships.

The Fairfield County Community Foundation promotes the growth of community and regional philanthropy to improve the quality of life throughout Fairfield County. Individuals, families, corporations and organizations can establish charitable funds and contribute to existing funds. The Foundation provides philanthropic advisory services, and develops and leads initiatives to tackle critical community issues. It is in compliance with the Council on Foundations’ national standards for community foundations. The Foundation has awarded over \$123 million in grants to nonprofits in Fairfield County and

beyond. For more information, visit [www.fccfoundation.org](http://www.fccfoundation.org).

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