



## Norwalk Housing Foundation Awarded Over \$100,000 in College Scholarships

The Norwalk Housing Authority and Norwalk Housing Foundation presented 26 scholarships totaling over \$100,000. at the 2009 Norwalk Housing Foundation College Scholarship Awards Ceremony at Stepping Stones Museum for Children in Mathews Park. This year's recipients include: Jessica Angel, Marie Antoine, Tatisha Banks, Dwayne Bennett, Charles Brown, Jr., Eliza Joy Brown, Javier Ceja, Suria Ceja, Jalisa Cuevas, Jessy Cuevas, Schmidt Demas, Nadege Francois, Maria Gabriel, Adriana Garcia, Brian Hernandez, Stephanie Hernandez, Nneka Little, Markus McElveen, Andrea Melton, Antonio Passerelle, James Pierre, Sharaya Pinkney, Cottlyn Ramirez, Octavia Sadler, Kimberly Seward and Jeffrey Sierra. Dr. Fred W. McKinney, President of the Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council and the first African American male to receive a Ph.D. in economics from Yale University was the guest speaker. Many recipients may receive additional scholarships.



## Ticket to Read

Beginning this summer and continuing into the 2009/2010 school year, students at the Learning Centers will be introduced to "Ticket to Read!". Ticket to Read is an interactive web-based, student-centered reading program that promotes literacy practice. Ticket to Read motivates students with fun activities while also providing leveled opportunities to build fluency, strengthen vocabulary, and reinforce comprehension skills. Each child will be issued a personal login and password. This will enable them to work/play on the website anytime. They can take advantage of this wonderful program at home too! So ask your child about Ticket to Read and be on the lookout for letters and updates regarding your child's success. Contact Danielle Truini, Acting Director of Learning Centers at 899-1739 for more details.



## Jeffrey Sierra Wins National Scholarship

Congratulation to NHF Scholarship recipient Jeffrey Sierra of Roodner Court. Jeffrey Sierra has just received the 2009 Housing Authority Insurance Group Scholarship (HAIG) for \$2,500. This award is a national competition. Mr. Sierra will be entering his Senior year at Philadelphia University, where he is majoring in psychology. Mr. Sierra has been awarded support for college from the Norwalk Housing Foundation for all four years of his college studies.



## Reading Results for Literacy Students

The King Kennedy Literacy Center is proud to report that 73% of NHA Learning Center Students improved in their reading scores from September, 2008 through June, 2009. WOW!!!!" Contact Danielle Truini, Acting Director of Learning Centers at 899-1739 for more details.

## DEALING WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

What is domestic violence? It is hurtful, repeated and intentional behavior that one person uses to maintain power and control over another in an intimate relationship. It is not necessarily physical. The abuse can be verbal, emotional, psychological, physical or sexual and may include threats, name-calling, put-downs, isolation from friends and relatives, withholding of money, physical harm and sexual assault. Domestic violence can occur in heterosexual relationships, gay and lesbian relationships, teenage dating relationships and within caregiver relationships for the elderly or disabled. Domestic violence crosses all boundaries and can happen to anyone regardless of race, religion, socio-economic level, educational attainment, age or culture. The Domestic Violence Crisis Center has been providing free and confidential services to victims of domestic violence and their children for over 20 years in courtrooms, SafeHouses and offices located in Norwalk and Stamford. The goal of the DVCC's professional staff of counselors and advocates is to help victims find ways to be safe, build self-esteem and take control of their own lives.

DVCC services include:

- **24-HOUR HOTLINE:** Trained crisis counselors answer the Hotline (1-888-774-2900)
- **SAFEHOUSES:** Two SafeHouses in Stamford and Norwalk offer temporary housing.
- **COURT AND LEGAL ADVOCACY:** DVCC Family Violence Victim Advocates in the Stamford and Norwalk courts help individuals navigate the criminal and civil justice systems.
- **COUNSELING:** A professional staff of counselors provides individual and group counseling in both English and Spanish.
- **CHILDREN'S SERVICES:** DVCC staff members support children through counseling, play therapy and age-appropriate education about domestic violence.
- **HOUSING ADVOCACY:** Helping to find permanent and affordable housing for victims of domestic violence is a high priority for the DVCC.
- **MULTILINGUAL SERVICES:** All of the above services are available in Spanish through bilingual counselors.
- **PREVENTION EDUCATION PROGRAMS:** PeaceWorks, the DVCC's Prevention Education Project, offers programs to youngsters in Pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, both in and outside of the classroom,

that promote healthy relationships, peaceful conflict resolution, empathy, tolerance and self-respect.



## PFIZER LAUNCHES NEW PROGRAM FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

A new program called MAINTAIN (Medicines Assistance for Those who Are in Need) is designed to help recently unemployed Americans and their families who have lost their insurance and who are taking Pfizer medicines to continue treatment at no cost for up to one year. The program will be open for enrollment through December 31, 2009 and applies to people who have become unemployed since January 1, 2009. For more information call 1-866-706-2400 or go to [www.PfizerHelpfulAnswers.com](http://www.PfizerHelpfulAnswers.com).

## Free Family Fun Pass

Come for a day of fun and excitement at the Stepping Stones Museum for Children through the Open Arms Community Admissions Program. This family pass is valid for free admission for up to ten (10) people. Contact Danielle Truini, Acting Director of Learning Centers at 899-1739 for more details.



## NHA Learning Center Summer Program Calendar for August 2009

### Mondays:

- 10:00 Drama
- 10:00 Swimming
- 10:00 Tennis
- 11:00 Art Program
- 1:00 FCA Peer Leadership
- 2:00 Digital Photography

### Tuesdays:

- 10:00 Movie Day
- 11:00 Art Program
- 1:00 Nutrition
- 7:00 Karate

### Wednesdays:

- 10:00 Drama
- 10:00 Swimming
- 10:00 Tennis
- 11:00 Art Program
- 12:00 Latin Drums

### Thursdays:

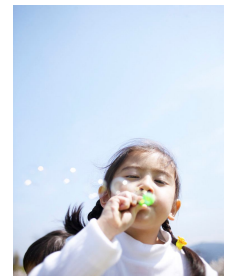
- 9:00 Trip (Every Thursday except 8/27)
- 10:00 Early Parents Group
- 11:00 Art Program
- 11:00 Parenting Skills
- 7:00 Karate

### Fridays:

- 10:00 Sound Waters
- 10:00 Tennis
- 11:00 Art Program

### Saturdays:

- 1:00 Early Childhood Swimming, 6mo-2yrs
- 1:30 Early Childhood Swimming, 3 yrs -5 yrs



To register your child for these FREE programs, call 899-1739 and speak with Danielle Truini, Acting Director of Learning Centers.