



Archdiocese of Hartford

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CATHOLIC CHARITIES AWARDED \$13,720 GRANT FROM UNITED WAY OF GREATER NEW HAVEN FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD SUCCESS PROGRAM

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Hartford announced today that it has been awarded \$13,720 for the Early Childhood Success Program at Centro San José in the Fair Haven section of New Haven by the United Way Board of Directors for the Agency's fiscal year of July, 2011 through June, 2012. The Early Childhood Success Program is an innovative project that will dramatically enhance the school readiness of Fair Haven's young children and their parents/primary caregiver's knowledge of the important developmental milestones that their children must meet to come to school success-ready.

Lois M. Nesci, Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Charities, states, "The Early Childhood Success program is so unique because it is one of a select number of programs under the United Way's Success by Six initiative dedicated to increasing parents' knowledge of the important developmental milestones their children must meet to come to school success-ready. Parents are their children's first and most important teachers and play a critical role in ensuring student achievement in school as well as success in later life."

The grant will allow project activities such as full day, full year, licensed, National Association for the Education of the Young Child (NAEYC) accredited early childhood education, parenting workshops, family literacy events such as "Dinner and a Story" workshops together with access to the basic human needs programming of Catholic Charities that include access to a food pantry, clothing closet and diaper bank in order to ensure some of Greater New Haven's neediest children have access to these essential resources.

Catholic Charities is the largest non-governmental provider of human services in the State of Connecticut and has been the licensed, accredited social service arm of the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Hartford (Hartford, Litchfield and New Haven Counties) for more than 90 years. The Agency serves 30,000 people of all faiths annually from 34 locations throughout Connecticut and is an employer of more than five hundred social service professionals. For more information on Catholic Charities, please visit our website at www.ccaoh.org.

About United Way: United Way brings together the caring power of people to create change in our region and improve lives. They strive to be a catalyst for identifying community needs and opportunities for change; to focus on specific community priority areas and initiatives through which they have the best opportunities to improve lives and change conditions; and to engage donors, organizations and community leaders to improve the social and civic health of our region. More information about United Way's work to improve lives and communities can be found at www.uwgnh.org

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