

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Karen Foley-Schain
Executive Director, Children's Trust Fund
860.418.8761
karen.foley-schain@ct.gov

Jenny Smith or Becky Giantonio, Pita Communications LLC
860.293.0157 exts. 25 and 15; becky@pitacomm.com or jenny@pitacomm.com

Ten Years of Parenting Support to Connecticut Families

The Children's Trust Fund To Celebrate 10th Anniversary During Special Performance and Recognition Event November 8 At Saint Joseph College

New Take5Parenting.com Web Site Offers Valuable Tips, Resources to Parents and Community Service Providers

(Hartford, Conn., September 12, 2007) – Since the Children's Trust Fund (CTF) was founded as an independent state agency in 1997, it has succeeded in preventing child abuse and neglect by coordinating and funding programs and services that have helped more 100,000 parents and caregivers support their children's development.

To commemorate these milestones, the Children's Trust Fund will host a 10th anniversary celebration and performance on November 8, from 5 to 7p.m. in the Hoffman Auditorium at the Bruyette Athenaeum, Carol Autorino Center for the Arts and Humanities at Saint Joseph College. Tickets are \$25 and will benefit the Trust Fund's Nurturing Families Network program. Governor M. Jodi Rell and Senator Christopher Dodd are honorary chairpersons for the event.

"During the past decade, the Children's Trust Fund has worked with its community service partners statewide to develop effective parenting support and child abuse prevention programs — including the *The Nurturing Families Network*, *Help Me Grow* and the *Shaken Baby Prevention Project* — that have become national models," said Governor M. Jodi Rell. "The Trust Fund's 10th anniversary celebration will recognize the volunteers, community outreach professionals and staff who have worked tirelessly to offer parenting support and education programs that help our children grow into happy, productive adults," she added.

The evening begins at 5 p.m. at the Hoffman Auditorium with a reception of hot hors d'oeuvres and a preview of the Children's Trust Fund's new television PSA, followed at 5:45 p.m. by "Take Five," a live performance by the talented CityKids Foundation Repertory Company.

As part of the 10-year celebration theme, the Trust Fund has also launched a new Web site, Take5Parenting.com. The site encourages parents and caregivers who are under stress to "take 5" — five deep breaths, five steps back, or a five-minute phone call for support — and offers advice and education on positive parenting.

"Our goal is to make Take5Parenting.com as useful and user-friendly as possible for families and for the program and service providers that we work with across the state," said Children's Trust Fund Executive Director Karen Foley-Shain. "We'll continue to enhance the site by adding new information and resources throughout our anniversary year and beyond."

Attending the Trust Fund's 10th anniversary event on November 8 event as honored guests and speakers are Senator and Deputy President Pro Tempore Toni Harp (D-New Haven); State Representative and Assistant Majority Leader John "Jack" Thompson (D-Manchester); former Representative Bob Farr, Chairman of the Connecticut Board of Pardons and Paroles — all of whom have actively supported the Children's Trust Fund during the past decade; and Stephen J. Bavolek, Ph.D., founder of Nurturing Parenting Programs and the Adult Adolescent Parenting Inventory, whose nurturing parenting model provided the basis for the Trust Fund's Nurturing Families Network programs.

The Children's Trust Fund's 10th Anniversary Celebration

Date: Thursday, November 8

Time: 5 – 7 p.m.

5 p.m. – Reception, including hot hors d'oeuvres

5:45 p.m. – "Take Five" a special performance by the CityKids Foundation

Repertory Company

Location: Hoffman Auditorium at the Bruyette Athenaeum
Carol Autorino Center for the Arts and Humanities
Saint Joseph College
1678 Asylum Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06117-2791

Tickets: \$25 to benefit the Trust Fund's Nurturing Families Network program

To purchase tickets by phone, call the Saint Joseph College

Frances Driscoll Box Office at: 860.231.5555

To purchase tickets online, visit: <https://ticketing.sjc.edu/>

For more information, call the Children's Trust Fund: 860.418.8765 or visit Take5Parenting.com

The Children's Trust Fund is an independent state agency created by the Connecticut General Assembly to prevent child abuse and neglect, and to establish resources in communities throughout the state that support and strengthen families. Governed by a 16-member interdisciplinary board, the Trust Fund is sustained by federal and state dollars and private funding. Since 1997, it has developed or funded more than 180 family service programs and initiatives statewide. For more information, visit Take5Parenting.com or www.ct.gov/ctf.

For more than 20 years, The CityKids Foundation has developed and operated innovative and successful programs that engage young people, support their development as individuals and citizens, and partner with them to create change in their own lives, their communities and the world. CityKids offers leadership training workshops and courses, original live musical and theatrical performances, community improvement projects, community-based workshops, leadership conferences and youth-directed and facilitated dialogue sessions. All CityKids programs are youth-driven – created for youth by youth – to ensure they reflect the real needs, ideas, and visions of youth. For more information, visit citykids.com

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