

# COMMUNITY CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC

Serving: Andover . Bolton . Columbia . Coventry . East Hartford . Ellington . Glastonbury . Hebron . Manchester . Marlborough . South Windsor . Stafford Springs - Stafford . Tolland . Vernon - Rockville

Winter 2009

## WHAT'S ON YOUR CLOTHESLINE ?



During Domestic Violence Month in October, our Victims of Crime Assistance Program (VOCA) participated in the NATIONAL CLOTHESLINE PROJECT, a program begun in 1990 to

address the issue of violence against women. Each of the pictured T-shirts was decorated by a child in the VOCA program, and represented their feelings about violence in their families. As part of their display, the children also made pledges against violence by decorating hands signifying the promise:



**"Hands are not for hitting.  
 Words are not for hurting.  
 I will not use these hands to hurt another."**



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## WHY HOME BASED SERVICES?

The Community Child Guidance Clinic has a long history of providing intensive in-home services to young clients and their families. There are numerous advantages to doing in-home work, including:

- Assessment and engagement happen more quickly, due to more frequent visits.
- Additional information is available in the home setting.
- Additional family members are available for treatment.
- Parents appreciate the clinician witnessing the

child's more challenging behaviors.

- After-hours on-call staff members are trained to handle crises.
- Family members feel more comfortable in their own homes.
- Family members don't have to find transportation to sessions.
- The family participates actively in creating the treatment goals.
- Home-based services include working with other providers to create a cohesive plan.

- Parents are grateful for assistance in accessing resources and advocating for family members.
- Home-and community-based work lends itself to kids who don't do talk therapy well.
- Clinicians can model for parents how to handle challenging behaviors.
- Clinicians can practice new skills with family members, as these challenges come up.

Home-based work can be an adjunct to other services or stand alone.

It takes a certain kind of person to roll up his/her sleeves and join with families in their homes. But the relationships formed can be the catalysts for growth and change, making this a very gratifying kind of work.

## A HOT TOPIC - JUVENILE FIRESETTING

Over the years U.S. Fire Administration Statistics have consistently shown that more than 50% of arson arrests involve people under the age of 18. The past experience of concerned citizens has also indicated that an effective approach to the problem requires the joint intervention of community agencies, including the fire service, youth service bureaus, and counseling services.

CCGC has been involved in such a community effort since the late 1980's, being one of the first clinics in the State to collaborate in developing a juvenile firesetter intervention program. Initially called "Firehawk", the program followed a model originally established by the Los Angeles, California Fire Department, working with a clinical psychologist, Jessica Gaynor. Our program is located in Manchester and involves personnel from the Town Fire Department, the Youth Service Bureau, and CCGC.

The goal of such intervention programs is to assess each child, both in terms of the motivation for the firesetting and the likelihood of recidivism. Firesetting is a complex problem and may indicate curiosity or lack of supervision, a cry for help from a troubled youngster or behaviors associated with peer group acting out. Depending on the need, the program may provide educational activities about fire and its

dangers, or may refer the child to appropriate community resources such as counseling or community recreation and mentoring.

Some of the other towns in our catchment area have also established juvenile firesetter programs. We are pleased that collaborating on the needs of young firesetters and their families has proven an effective deterrent to continuation of dangerous and often life-threatening behaviors.



*The Firehawk Children's Program is a nationwide preventive program to assist children who set fires. In coordination with the State of Connecticut Commission on Fire Prevention and Control, the Clinic has provided training and consultation to the fire departments in the towns it serves.*

## WHY NOT DRAW? (By Isaiah)

Drawing is good for arm strength.

It is creative and fun.

What could be more fun than that?

With drawing you can draw anything—a cat, a ball, a pencil — anything!

Some people (teachers) think it's immature to draw and doodle, but think of some of the famous artists—van Gogh, Leonardo daVinci—every single one of them was a little kid drawing and doodling and look at them now!

(Isaiah is a student in our school writing on the topic: "What is something you are good at doing by yourself?")



## CLINIC HOLDS 2 SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISERS

On June 3, 2009 the Clinic hosted its Second Annual Golf Tournament at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron. It was a beautiful sunny day, and almost one hundred golfers took part. We want to thank our sponsors for their support:



Data Based Development Systems  
United Technologies Corporation  
Mutual of America  
American Eagle Federal Credit Union  
Turbo Care Manchester  
Rockville Bank



Our entire Board of Directors, led by Ellen Marmer, Roger Cady and Debbie Magoon, along with support from our staff, made this a great day for the golfers and for the Clinic. A dinner and award ceremony followed the day of golf. Where else can you get to play golf on a beautiful

late spring day and at the same time help children in need? We raised over \$23,000 and all of this money is going directly into providing services for autistic children and their families who are seen through "Building Blocks", our autism assessment program.



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On October 16th we hosted our Sixth Annual Silent and Live Auction at the Manchester Country Club and, again the affair was a great success and a fun time. Over 175 auction items were available for bid and the Clinic raised over \$11,000—all of which will go toward our Autism Assessment program. In attendance were 125 folks and everyone had a good time with plenty of good food and drink.

We are thankful to the volunteers on our Board of Directors for their effort in making these events so successful and to all the members of the community who came out to support the work we do for children.

We hope everyone will join us again next time as we make these events even bigger as we continue to support services for children in our community.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# ODDS AND ENDS

## LUNCH PROJECT

The students of the CCGC School recently participated in a Lunch Project. They developed the menu, solicited orders from the staff, prepared the food, and delivered the lunches. They did all the math and collected \$50.00, most of which was then donated to the Salvation Army. It was a wonderful learning experience for all!

## GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

For the past year or more CCGC staff have responded to difficult economic times by donating food and household items to the MACC Food Bank. Donations are collected and delivered on a monthly basis.

Also, our Computer Systems Manager has been able to refurbish some of our outdated computers so that they can be made available to children who are receiving CCGC services.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Are you interested in serving on our Board of Directors? Give us a call at 643-2101!!

