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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CAROLINE HOUSE RECEIVES \$8,000 GRANT FROM
BJ'S CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**

BRIDGEPORT, CT - Caroline House recently received an \$8,000 grant from the BJ's Charitable Foundation. Caroline House will use the grant to support its Mother and Child Literacy Program. Funding will be applied toward the cost of educational materials for women enrolled in English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, computers used by ESL learners and tutored children, and snacks for preschool and school-age children.

The Mother and Child Literacy Program provides free literacy education and support services to economically-disadvantaged families in the Bridgeport area. The program consists of ESL and life skills classes for women. While mothers attend classes, their preschool children receive school-readiness instruction in a nurturing environment. School-age children attend tutoring after school and in the summer. The children strengthen academic skills and build self-esteem. Over 200 women and children are served per year.

"We are grateful to the BJ's Charitable Foundation for helping Caroline House provide essential student and classroom supplies for the Mother and Child Literacy Program," said Peg Regan, SSND, Executive Director of Caroline House. "This grant enables our center to continue to improve our services that educate and empower inner-city families. When an immigrant woman is able to communicate with her child's teacher or fill out a job application, when a middle school student can complete an essay for school, or when a preschooler graduates our program into an English-only kindergarten, it is a great achievement. This grant funding provides textbooks, student materials, computers, and nutritional food supplies which are all important components of our program."

"The BJ's Charitable Foundation is dedicated to supporting hunger prevention, self sufficiency, healthcare and education in the communities surrounding our Clubs," said Jessica Newman, Executive Director of the BJ's Charitable Foundation. "BJ's Charitable Foundation donated a total of \$748,550 to 114 nonprofit charitable organizations across our footprint during this grant cycle, and we hope these donations benefit the incredible efforts of our partners working to impact the lives of individuals and families and enable them to continue to provide crucial services to those in need."

About Caroline House

Caroline House is a nondenominational education center located on the East Side of Bridgeport. The center was founded in 1995 by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. The Caroline House mission is: *To enable women and children to reach the fullness of their potential through education in English language and life skills.* To learn more about Caroline House and ways to support its educational programs, contact Sister Peg Regan at 203-334-0640, pregan@thecarolinehouse.org, or visit www.thecarolinehouse.org.

About BJ's Charitable Foundation

BJ's Charitable Foundation was established with the mission to enrich every community BJ's Wholesale Clubs serve. The Foundation supports nonprofit organizations that primarily benefit the underprivileged in the area of basic needs (hunger prevention, self-sufficiency, education and health). For more information about BJ's Charitable Foundation, please visit, www.bjs.com/charity/

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