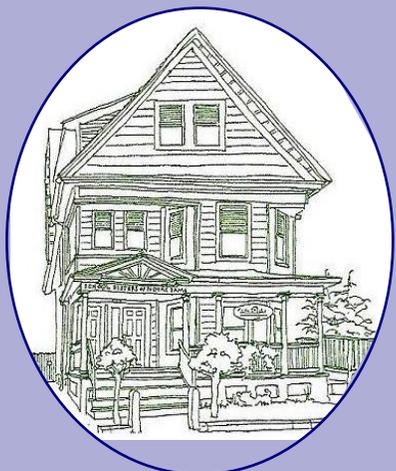


Caroline House Mission Statement

To enable women and children to reach the fullness of their potential through education in English language and life skills



Caroline House

Founded and sponsored by the School Sisters of Notre Dame

Serves the women of the Bridgeport area by teaching classes in English, life skills, and basic computer skills

Offers programs for preschool children while their mothers are in class and tutoring for school-age children



SPRING 2013

Family Bonding Through Literacy

Each school day women enter our doors to learn English and life skills and share hope and opportunity with others. Moms with young children arrive pushing strollers or holding their little ones' hands, so that their children will also be given the chance to learn and grow.

Maria and Jonathan

With their sunny smiles, Maria and her son Jonathan are students who brighten our house. Maria moved to the U.S. from Guatemala with her husband in 2005. When Jonathan was 2, Maria learned about Caroline House and was grateful to find a center where she could learn English and also bring her son to learn at the same time.



Maria enrolled in 2011 and is currently in Sister Betty's Level 3 ESL class. She says her teachers have given her confidence to speak with people in English and to make friends. She says, ***"The Sisters and staff are so nice. They are friendly and treat me as an important person."***

Maria describes 4-year old Jonathan as "high energy." When you walk into the preschool classroom, you can always expect a big smile and friendly greeting from Jonathan. In the classroom, he is mastering his colors, shapes, and letters. He loves playing with blocks, puzzles, and dinosaurs. On nice days, he enjoys backyard play time riding trikes, playing ball and running around with his preschool friends.



Maria is looking forward to reading Jonathan the new bilingual books we recently received through a **First Book** grant. Jonathan especially likes books about animals and pirates!

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Volunteer Spotlight: Liza Hesburgh

Liza has been a Caroline House volunteer for over 10 years. She began by teaching nutrition and yoga classes for women students and also chaired fundraising events. For the past five years, Liza dedicates her time in the preschool, where she is known and loved by the children, their moms, and our staff.



Liza brings joy to our preschool.

Liza says she loves working with “the beautiful children who are a joy to be with.” She sees the progress children make in reading-readiness and social skills. She also finds the mothers inspiring as they study to learn English and also seek to provide a safe environment for their children. *Thank you Liza for all you do!*

Why I give to Caroline House...

“For many years, Caroline House has been very important in our lives. Having served for two terms on the Board of Directors and now on the Honorary Board, I have come to know and value the wonderful work performed by the School Sisters of Notre Dame and the many dedicated volunteers who enrich the lives of so many women and their children.



Ruedi and Carmen Stalder

“Through their educational ESL and life skills programs, Caroline House has provided the tools essential for a brighter future and success in the students’ chosen fields. For both mother and child, Caroline House is a haven of caring, love, and respect where close friendships are formed and confidence is instilled. It is a happy place!”

- Carmen Stalder

“My family and I are grateful to be a part of Caroline House, as we share the same mission. All I hope for my two girls is for them to reach the fullness of their potential through education. All women and children should have the same opportunity - and Caroline House provides this to our community.”



- Laurie Stefanowicz

Maisie, Laurie, Jeff, and Ellie Stefanowicz

Program Happenings and Highlights

After-School Tutoring

Our after-school tutoring continues on Monday and Thursday afternoons. We are grateful for our dedicated high school and adult volunteers. Caring tutors such as **Aly Rackson**, a junior at Staples High School, work one-on-one with the children to encourage their academic abilities and self-confidence.



Aly works with Christopher on a reading assignment.

Enrichment: Art and Knitting

We are blessed to have artist **Eileen Casey, SSND**, come to Caroline House on many Friday mornings to teach art classes. Sister Eileen helps the women develop their artistic talents through creative drawing and painting. In a recent class, students painted their versions of Van Gogh's *Starry Night* that were filled with swirls of beautiful colors and scenery.



Maria and Maria enjoy Sister Eileen's art class.

Eliana Foisie has been a treasured volunteer for several years. She not only teaches one of the Basic English classes, she also lends her time and talents teaching knitting. The women are learning to make colorful scarves, while they chat with each other during a time of relaxing camaraderie.

Do you have a talent or skill you'd like to share with our students? Contact us! Please call 203-334-0640.



Eliana helps Alma, Maria, and Ana with their knitting.

Kiernan Black Inspires Healthy Eating with her book *Margaret Feeney Had a Farm*

Girl Scout Ambassador and Lauralton Hall junior Kiernan Black shared her book about Margaret Feeney, who grew fruits and vegetables to help her sick father feel better. Margaret's efforts have grown into a mission to provide fresh produce to people in need. Our children loved reading Kiernan's colorful book and eating "ants on a log", tasting how yummy healthy snacks can be!

Kiernan and Margaret Feeney also brought books and fresh vegetables for our women students. Many women tried raw veggies and hummus for the first time. Thank you Kiernan for being an inspiring role model!



Kiernan Black, Margaret Feeney, and Roisin Black with women students and staff

The Children's Corner

Tap...tap...shuffle...shuffle. That's the sound of our children learning to tap dance. We have four girls and two boys enrolled in our **dance class**. We also have a **yoga class**, that starts out quietly but usually ends up with tangled limbs and laughs.

Our room is looking great, with **grouchy ladybugs**, **very hungry caterpillars**, and **rubber ducks** from our theme month honoring children's author and artist **Eric Carle**. We also have been working on projects with trucks, buses, boats and trains celebrating **transportation**.



Dancing is fun with Sacred Heart University student Jessie Schild



Check out our grouchy ladybugs and very hungry caterpillars!

Marsha of Commerce Park Children's Dentistry visited and showed us how to keep our teeth clean and healthy. Each child received a dental care packet to take home.

Next month we will be working on learning about wild animals to prepare for our annual trip to the **Bronx Zoo**. Some preparation is needed as one of the children thinks we will be seeing dinosaurs!



Alexander takes a turn brushing Mr. Doggy's teeth.

Upcoming Plans:

- **Earth Day Party** given by Sacred Heart University students
- **Tea Party** for our children's moms to celebrate Mother's Day
- **Walkathon on May 4th** to raise awareness and funds for Caroline House

Miss Jean's Recipe: Easy Tuna Casserole

A favorite lunch of the children... (of course, pizza is their very favorite!)

- 1 bag wide egg noodles
- 1 large can tuna
- 1 large can cream of mushroom soup
- 1/2 bag frozen peas, cooked
- Small amount of milk



Prepare noodles, drain and return to pot.

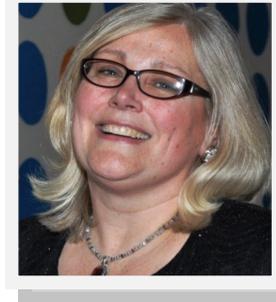
Add rest of ingredients & heat over low heat until heated through. Enjoy!

Please join us for lunch!

Call Preschool Director Jean Fredricks at (203) 334-0640 to join us in the classroom for one of our Wednesday lunch specials.

In Memoriam: Cecelia Campbell

We remember Cecelia as a loving mother and cherished friend of Caroline House. Cecelia's kindness and generosity were immeasurable. She had so many gifts which she shared freely with all who knew her. She was smart, dedicated, loving, compassionate, and so much fun. Cecelia's laugh was contagious. Her children are a tribute to the special person she was.



Cecelia's long-time support at Caroline House as friend, volunteer and board member was a constant and upbeat presence. We are honored to have known her and will miss her greatly, but her joy-filled spirit will live on through many positive memories and contributions.

Upcoming Events

Join the friends of Caroline House for

Starry Night

Friday, April 26, 2013

7 p.m.—11 p.m.

Patterson Club, 1118 Cross Highway, Fairfield

Music, Dinner, Drinks

Live & Silent Auction



Caroline House Award Recipients:

Robert Marzik, Esq.

Cecelia Campbell (Posthumously)

***Register online at www.thecarolinehouse.org
or call Christine Matthews Paine at 203-605-2728***

SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY, MAY 4TH - 10 AM

4TH ANNUAL WALK-A-THON



**THIS YEAR'S LOCATION: PEMBROKE STREET TRACK/FIELD NEXT TO
BOSTON AVENUE FIREHOUSE, BRIDGEPORT**

Register online at www.thecarolinehouse.org

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Sister Peg's Perspective

Like most of you, we are happy to have spring arrive. It was a hard winter and we lost many days of class, but we are getting caught up. And with the help of friends we are ready to spruce up the grounds for the new season. After seeing the weeds grow to six feet in the parking lot last summer, we are doing some preventive maintenance so that we won't have to clear it again.

Our upcoming Starry Night event promises to be a fun night. **Sister Eileen Casey**, an art teacher who volunteers at Caroline House, has had her students painting their own interpretation of Van Gogh's *Starry Night* which will be on display at the Patterson Club. It is a delight to see the women proudly showing off their artistic creations. And speaking of the

Arts, we were blessed by the incredible talent of pianist **Vanessa Perez**, who performed a benefit concert last October. We are so grateful to her for a wonderful evening, and to dear friends **Carmen and Ruedi Stalder** for connecting us to Vanessa.

We continue to receive blessings through the Scouts, both boys and girls. These are uplifting and helpful experiences. We received a generous donation from after-school tutors **Mary and Julia Spillane** and **Girl Scout Troop 36263**. In this newsletter issue we report on a "healthy eating" initiative and book by Girl Scout **Kiernan Black**. In our last issue, we thanked Chris Driscoll for transforming our basement; but it was his brother **Sean Driscoll** who did that great job. Sean is a

Life Scout working towards Eagle Scout. (Chris was here as a volunteer tutor for our summer-school program and I confused the names. Oops, sorry... a senior moment.) We are grateful to all the Driscolls who have been kind and generous friends to Caroline House.

We are so grateful to ALL of you for making Caroline House possible!



Sister Peg Regan, SSND
Executive Director

