

Caroline House

An Educational Center for Women & Their Children

574 Stillman Street
Bridgeport, CT 06608

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ORGANIZATION
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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, basic computer, and life skills

Offers programs for preschool children while their mothers are in class

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Continuing the Mission...

"These five years have been blessed for me," Sister Ann remarks. "I have met so many wonderful people: the women who come so eager to learn English, their little children who continually make me smile, and the many Spirit-filled volunteers and generous benefactors who give of themselves in so many ways. The staff has always been an inspiration as they live out our mission to enable women and children to reach the fullness of their potential. Finally, I am grateful for the ever present support that the School Sisters of Notre Dame give Caroline House to make it the vital life-giving site it is today."



Director Sister Ann Moles (r) passes on some information to the new director, Sister Peg Regan (l)

"To minister in a place with a fifteen year tradition helps me value what the SSND's have accomplished in this small neighborhood. Sisters Mary Lennon and Karen Kane began by converting a house into an educational center, adding more rooms. Sisters Brenda Lynch and Maureen Fleming continued to grow our House, by converting the attic into classrooms. In the last five years we have added new after-school and summer tutoring programs, citizenship classes and individual tutoring. The women and children who come here find a safe haven, enabling them to learn English, life and study skills. The women especially, develop lasting friendships, and in many cases deepen their spirituality and self confidence. "

Sister Peg says she has enjoyed working with all the wonderful people during her first year. She continues, "Caroline House is a very special place with a vibrant spirit that is contagious and affects the youngest to the oldest person who comes. There is a genuine sense of care and concern and a deep gratitude for the "oasis space" created by/for the children, the women, the volunteers, the staff and the visitors. Our lives are mutually enriched by the experience.

We will miss Sister Ann, and I'm hopeful that we can carry on the educational tradition that has been established by her and all the Sisters who have ministered here. I know I cannot do this alone. I count on the prayerful support of all the people who are involved in this ministry. I pray to be led by Wisdom to help Caroline House develop the potential and giftedness of each individual."

News, Thoughts & Reminders

Please visit our new web site at thecarolinehouse.org.

You can find a wealth of information about Caroline House, our mission, partnering organizations and of course, stories about our students and what Caroline House has meant in their lives and the lives of their families.

There are also links for program information and ways that you may volunteer or make a donation to Caroline House. You can check out our recent events and fundraisers and learn more about our history and staff.

Join with us to change the lives of women and their children.

Join a new group at Caroline House The Caroline House FunD Committee

Let's think about ways to have fun and support Caroline House at the same time. There will be a preliminary meeting in August. If interested, please e-mail: westportlady@aol.com or call 203-334-0640.



"Changing Lives through Literacy"
Booklet

We are counting on your continued generosity to help us continue our mission.

We need your support!

Please don't forget our recent mailer that you received last November.

SAVE THE DATE

She's back!

Adriana Trigiani

November 3, 2010

Westport Country

Playhouse

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Ann Moles SSND
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 Connie Carrigan SSND
 Teacher/Development Asst.
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 Life Skills Coordinator
 Peg Regan SSND
 Teacher
 Irene Hughes SSND
 Teacher
 Mariano Pardo SSND
 Teacher/Education Coordinator
 Jean Fredricks
 Early Childhood Director
 Debby Toner
 Early Childhood Assitant

Wonderful Gala Fundraising Event!

The two feet high Sapphire Martini glasses and matching Chinese lanterns adorning each table in Brooklawn Country Club indicated that we were in for a special evening as we gathered on March 26th for the second "Martinis and Mingle" fundraiser for Caroline House. This benefit was organized by an outstanding committee that dedicated their time and talent to provide us with an evening of fun.

And mingle we did as we checked out the items available for the live and silent auctions, which included vacation trips, luggage to get there, and even a long weekend babysitter. If one preferred to stay home, there was a Scotch tasting night to enjoy or a filled picnic basket and baseball memorabilia. The diamond earring display was the focal point of the room. And of course, there were many friendly faces offering to accompany the winners and help them celebrate.



ALTAN - The Generous Jeweler



Diamond Earring Display



The Lucky Winner

With a jazz trio playing in the background, the guests floated back downstairs to the dining room to be seated with some of Hollywood's outstanding personalities (or at least with their photos). As people chatted about favorite movie scenes, they were also entertained by a Trivia Quiz and the persuasive Fr. Charles Allen, S.J., a Caroline House Board Member, who convinced people that they wanted to spend more money.

Guests were deeply moved when Maria, a Caroline House "graduate", spoke during dinner and shared her story of learning English, getting a GED, training to be an LPN, getting a job, buying a house and is now in training for a second career in the medical field. And all this while raising her children!

Aside from a "good time" with friends old and new, the Martinis and Mingle also provided us with a "good feeling," knowing that we were helping a cause that helps people to transform their lives.



What's Happening at Caroline House



The track at Fairfield University was recently host to a very special Caroline House event. On a beautiful March day students from both Fairfield and Sacred Heart Universities organized the first ever Caroline House Walk-a-thon. These wonderful enthusiastic young people decorated the track with balloons and supplied water and snacks for the walkers. Many also joined the walk with the staff and the women and families who came to participate. Over \$3,000 was raised. To cheers from all, it was announced that Sacred Heart U. would be the site for next year's walk, indicating this may now become an annual affair. As one of the students said, "Think of the funds we'll get next year!"

Recycling

Julio Reynoso from the Anti-blight office in Bridgeport instructs students on the need to recycle to preserve our environment, as well as, clean up our neighborhood.



Life Skills

Iris Padilla from the Center for Women and Children speaks with the women on women's issues. Their decorated mirrors reflect their self affirmation.



Biannual Birthday Celebration

Spring / Summer Birthday celebrants wait to blow out candles on the Tres Leche Cake made by a talented classmate.



Mother's Day Project

On Friday mornings there are a variety of offerings. One morning the women delighted in making bulletin boards with their family photos.



Our Garden

Nataly and Gabriel attend to the sprouting spinach and pea plants in our garden.



Zoo Trip

Excited children and mothers embarked to the Bronx Zoo. Jennifer tentatively attempts to feed a goat during her visit.



The children delight in their veggies, but Danny seems uncertain about the new friend crawling in his hand.

