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Family Life Education

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2021 summer newsletter



People Empowering People: Parents Learn to Lead with a Community Focus

On a summer Sunday afternoon, 14 women gathered at the Louise Earle Loomis Children's Wellness Center. Many of the women had invited their family and friends to celebrate with them. Today was their graduation day from the ten-week People Empowering People (PEP) training course.

The graduation, coordinated by PEP Facilitator Cassandra Wilke, included a time for parent participants to share their experiences from the training.

Several participants described the group's summer community project, a partnership with Hartford's Wilson-Gray YMCA's movie nights.

"We know that other parents in our community are still struggling because of the COVID-19 pandemic and our project will provide food, care packages, and a resource guide so they can have somewhere to turn," said Nargea Walters, a parent leader.

Other parents shared personal achievements that came about through the program, such as more confidence in public speaking and even improved relationships with members of their household.

Robin Drago-Provencher and Faye Griffiths-Smith, UConn Extension facilitators, also addressed the graduates. Using a "Train the Trainer" model, the PEP curriculum

is a resource for family resource centers, community based agencies, faith communities and correctional centers throughout Connecticut and in other states.

The PEP program teaches communication skills, problem solving, the helping role, parenting, leadership skills, action planning, and community opportunity.

With new awareness of their capabilities, participants continue on in leadership roles as members of FLE's Parent Advisory Council, City Council, Neighborhood Revitalization Zone (NRZ), and school PTOs.

Grant and Foundation News

We are pleased to share the following recent grant awards that support our programs to low-income parents and children.

The [CIGNA Foundation](#) awarded a competitive grant of \$116,800 for Family Life Education's Nutrition Matters: A Way Forward program combining increased food access and nutrition/self-efficacy education for Hartford families living under the poverty line.

The [Hispanic Federation Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund](#) awarded a \$55,000 capacity building grant to Family Life Education. The fund, in partnership with the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving was established in 2021.

[United Way of Central and Northeastern CT](#) has awarded Family Life Education a \$50,000 grant to expand upon our existing COVID-19 response strategy.

[Asylum Hill Congregational Church](#) awarded a \$10,000 grant to Family Life Education for the Crianza con Carino (Nurturing Parents) program.

The [J. Walton Bissell Foundation](#) gave a \$10,000 grant for general operating expenses for Family Life Education's work addressing COVID-19 and racial equity.

Ensworth Charitable Foundation, Bank of America, N.A. granted \$10,000 for general operating expenses of the organization.

Charles N. Robinson Fund, Bank of America, N.A. awarded the Parent Support Services: A Pathway Forward program a \$5,000 grant.

The George A. and Grace L. Long Foundation, Bank of America, N.A. awarded a \$3,000 grant for Family Life Education's Nutrition Matters: A Way Forward program.

[Whole Foods Community Giving Program](#) chose Family Life Education for a \$2,892 grant for its Nutrition Matters program.

[Farmington Bank Community Foundation](#) awarded a \$2,500 grant to Family Life Education for Mitigating Food Insecurity and Basic Needs in the community.

[Foodshare](#) awarded a \$250 grant to support Family Life Education's Community Food Pantry.

FLE Girl Scouts honor the Hartford Police



Members of Family Life Education's Girl Scout Troop 10054 picked the Hartford Police for their [Girl Scout National Service Project Honoring Everyday Changemakers](#).

The scouts painted and decorated wooden birdhouses in bright colors and brought them to the local police department.

"This project was a fun way to build bridges in the community. It was also a teaching moment for the girls, to foster respect for our police officers for the good work they do to protect us," said Cassandra Wilke, Family Center Program Coordinator. The troop was welcomed at the station by Officer Doug Antuna (*pictured above, center*).

Parent leader Nicole Livingston (*pictured above, right*) arranged the event. The birdhouses will be displayed on a tree outside the Hartford Police Department on High Street throughout the fall.

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