

**Outline for WTIC 1080 “Living Well CT”
8-minutes, hosted by Bill Pierce, News Director
WTIC 1080 AM 860-677-6700 ext. 375**

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Title: CEO

Agency/Organization: Covenant to Care for Children **Taping Date:** 6/10/09 1:30PM

Program: Bill Peirce Living Well

Title of Topic:

Questions & Answers

1. What is Covenant to Care for Children?

Covenant to Care for Children is a 23 year old nonprofit that mobilizes and channels the generosity of caring and faithful people to advocate for, mentor and provide direct assistance to Connecticut’s children and youth who are abused, neglected or at risk.

Working with almost 300 faith-based and community organizations and thousands of volunteers throughout all of Connecticut, Covenant to Care for Children strives to change the reality for Connecticut’s poorest most underserved kids and therefore change their future for the better, offering hope and possibilities where before there wasn’t even imagination. It is about breaking the cycle of poverty or abuse, imbedding a different social culture, one of options and choices. It is about the kids.

Faithful people have, as part of their own imbedded culture, a value of giving back and of supporting the most vulnerable within our communities. We broker the maximum impact this resource of people has to offer, through our 5 programs, but especially the Critical Goods Program, Our Adopt a Social Worker Program and our Mentoring Program.

2. What sorts of things do these programs provide?

Our children need so much! Anyone who has raised or cared for a child knows the endless list of things required for that child to thrive. Covenant to Care for Children helps provide anything that is identified as a necessity for a child. The items we provide are usually not available to the

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child from any other source. This can be for any number of reasons but the bottom line is we are all about the kids.

Covenant to Care for Children's Adopt a Social Worker Program builds on the power of the faith-based community to benefit thousands of children with materials like clothes or a table at which to eat or do their homework. Our Faith communities take on special projects like dozens of backpacks for back to school or they might help one child at a time by providing the goods needed to help them stay united with their loving family.

Covenant to Care for Children's Critical Goods Program bridges the gap between our faith-based communities and the larger needs of Connecticut's poorest children. Sometimes the items provided by this program are all that are needed to keep a family together and off the case book lists. Sometimes all it takes is a bed for a child to be able to move from foster care into the arms of a loving grandmother. We provide new beds from Bob's Furniture to children who have no bed in which to sleep as well as gently used furniture and children's clothing.

Covenant to Care for Children's mentors make real differences in the lives of these children. We know this because we've seen the results after 20 years. We are in relationship with some of our alumni kids who are now adults with families of their own.

Covenant to Care for Children's mentoring program has the distinction of serving children who have a parent who is incarcerated and children who are considered highly at-risk of becoming or have already become parents themselves.

3. What parts of Connecticut do you serve?

Covenant to Care for Children serves the entire State of Connecticut. On average we serve over 27,000 children every year, one child at a time. This year we have experienced a 1500% increase in requests from last year. Our commitment is to say "yes" to every child brought to us with a need.

We can only do this big job with the financial and specific in-kind support that your listeners can bring to our effort. We need your donations of cash and bequests. We need your donation of

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household goods and items for children such as clothing, games and toys, books. We need your volunteer leadership to increase our capacity to serve.

Donations from individuals like your listeners, like you, allow us to do more, to have greater impact, to partner with sister agencies, and to find creative solutions.

4. Doesn't the government take care of all this?

We work very closely with the Department of Children and Families. In fact Covenant to Care for Children's Adopt a Social Worker Program specifically targets the case loads of individual social workers helping maximize their ability to bring a child to a permanent healthy family situation. Covenant to Care for Children's ability to respond is efficient and effective allowing for faster response time when a need is identified.

We are all of us paying close attention to the State budget's future. For every state dollar received, CCC is able to return \$6.80 in goods and services to the children of Connecticut in the form of clothes, beds and countless other immediate and essential needs.

A study was done a few years ago that demonstrated that the efforts of Covenant to Care for Children saved the State of Connecticut upwards to \$39, 000,000 every year.

We augment what the State and other nonprofits do in innovative and unique delivery systems involving thousands of volunteers.

5. How can people help?

Well, like I mentioned by donating goods or cash but we also need people to step forward and volunteer, help us connect. We do our work primarily through Faith-based Groups so if your faith-based organization is not already connected with Covenant to Care for Children we would very much like to talk with you.

6. What would you like people to do?

We work with hundreds of Social Workers who volunteer their time to better serve the children on their caseload.

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Our website has information and details of this budget issue as well as details about all of our programs and much, much more. The address again is www.coyenanttocare.org and our main office phone number is 860-243-1806.

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