

Please join us in assisting to meet the needs of Connecticut's children

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check (payable to CCC)       Credit Card (circle one)      Visa      Mastercard

\_\_\_\_\_ Please bill my Visa/Mastercard credit card for a single payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ OR a monthly payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for a \_\_\_\_\_ month period.

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

General     Endowment    *Please consider making a special donation...*

In Honor/Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer

Please return to Covenant to Care for Children, Inc. 120 Mountain Avenue, Suite 212, Bloomfield, CT 06002  
We respect your privacy. Your information will not be sold or traded.

*Please check with your employer to see if they have a Matching Gifts program.*

[www.covenanttocare.org](http://www.covenanttocare.org)

Greater Waterbury Office  
242 Southmayd Road  
Waterbury, CT 06705  
Telephone: (203) 574-0365  
Fax: (203) 591-8852

Greater Waterbury Office

Greater Bridgeport Office  
3272 Main Street  
Stratford, CT 06614  
Telephone: (203) 377-4037  
Fax: (203) 380-9032

Greater Bridgeport Office

Main Office  
120 Mountain Ave. Suite 212  
Bloomfield, CT 06002  
Telephone (860) 243-1806  
Fax (860) 243-0100

Main Office Address Service Requested

Covenant to Care for Children  
Helping Connecticut's  
Children in Need



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Hartford, CT  
Permit No. 929

Fall 2007  
Volume XIX No. 3

Location: **Maneeley's Banquets & Catering**  
65 Rye Street, South Windsor  
For directions visit CCC web site: [www.covenanttocare.org](http://www.covenanttocare.org)

Tickets are \$35 per person  
or \$360 for a table of 12 people.

Make your check payable to:  
**COVENANT TO CARE FOR CHILDREN,**  
and mail to 120 Mountain Ave Suite 212  
Bloomfield, CT 06002 or call 860-243-1806.

*Thanks to our Generous Sponsors:*

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Bernie's<br>Appliances • Televisions • Bedding | Hooker and Holcombe   |
| Maneeley's<br>Banquets & Catering              | May, Bonee & Walsh    |
| Ameriprise                                     | Alan-Brian Realty Co. |
| The Hartford Courant                           | bkm                   |
|  | Sir Speedy Printing   |
|  | Tri-lift, Inc.        |

Join us on November 2nd for a terrific party  
and silent and live auctions!

Event to benefit:



Silent Auction  
Live Auction  
Buffet Dinner

MILTON ROSENBERG  
Honorary Auction Chairperson

ROY SCOTT  
Auctioneer

*Here are some exciting auction items:*

Hitachi 50" Plasma High Definition TV, 1080i display (P50T501) Donated by Bernie's.

General Electric 3.8 cf King-Size Front Loading Energy Saving Washer & Matching 7.0 cf King-Size Dryer in Dramatic Black. White also available. (WCVH6600HBB & DCVH660EHBB)

Frigidaire 3.5 cf Electronically controlled Frontload Washer & Matching Dryer in Arctic White with Chrome Trim. Black also available. (ATF8000FS & AEQ8000FS)

Whirlpool Stainless Steel Smoothtop Electric Range with True Convection oven. Gas also available; other colors available. (GR773LXSS)

Mohegan Sun Stay overnight and enjoy the casino, shopping & restaurants! Donated by Clear Channel Radio.

Danby 51-bottle Wine Storage unit. Variable temperature control, tempered glass, reversible door. (DWC512BLS 51)

Friedrich Electronic Air Cleaner. No filters to replace, quietly removes allergens and dust from the air. (C90)

Gillette Ridge Golf Club Arnold Palmer-designed course; 18 holes for 4 with cart!

Panasonic 5 DVD Home Theater System. 1000 Watt 5.1 Channel system with 5 Disc DVD Player. (SCPT650)

Panasonic DVD Recorder & VCR combo. Enjoy TV shows, movies, music, home video and photos with this versatile multiformat recorder.

Bosch Extra Capacity, Stainless Steel Interior, Tall Tub Dishwasher. White or Black (SHE43MO).

## Our Programs

Our **Adopt A Social Worker** program works with over 200 faith communities to benefit thousands of Connecticut children by providing the critical material needs that help stabilize their living situations. Without the efforts of over 1,000 volunteers and donors, this initiative would not be a success.

Our **Critical Goods Distribution** program assists social workers who are attempting to reunify and preserve families by providing them with goods such as furniture and clothing. During any given fiscal year, we deliver an average of \$115,000 worth of usable goods to families in need. On a yearly basis, around 500 children are provided with beds, dressers, a table to eat at and do homework on and other goods that they too often go without.



Our **Reach One Youth** mentoring program matches the power of infinite love to youth with infinite potential by assisting highly at-risk teens, teen parents and their children. This program creates partnerships between youth, mentors, congregations and the broader community by providing opportunities to nurture and cultivate the resilient spirit found in all youth.

Our mentoring program, **Mom, Mentor, and Me (M3)** mentors children whose mothers are incarcerated in the New Haven, Waterbury, New Britain and Greater Bridgeport areas. Although mentoring children of prisoners is not new, this is the first program that focuses specifically on children who have been detached from their mothers due to incarceration. M3 creates and supports relationships between youth, mentors and faith communities to provide the support needed for these at-risk youth.

## From the Executive Director

by Caryl Hallberg, Executive Director

To the Donors, Paid and Volunteer Staff, Faith-Based Leadership, Directors, Supporters, and most of all to the children of Connecticut who are part of the Covenant to Care Family;

It is meaningful to me that I begin my post with Covenant to Care for Children at this time of year. During my first two weeks as Executive Director, we have celebrated Rosh Hashanah beginning the "Days of Awe" on September 13, 2007 and ending with Yom Kippur on September 22, 2007.

The traditional greeting for Rosh Hashanah is *L'shanah tovah* which can be loosely translated to "May you have a good year." This holiday signifies the beginning of the new year and a time of reflection which then culminates in Yom Kippur. The traditional prayer for this Yom Kippur is...

"Blessed are you, our G\_d, creator of time and space, who enriches our lives with holiness commanding us to kindle the Yom Kippur lights."

For the Jewish faithful this is a time when they reconcile and renew their relationship with G\_d. It is a time of *teshuvah*. I have been told that this translates into a recommitment to be living closer to your highest potential. In order to do this, one commits to "empathy, empathetic listening, paying attention, hearing beyond words to the

soul and meaning of what is uttered" (Marcia Pravder Mirkin).

What this means to me as I enter into my role here at Covenant to Care for Children is that not only must I practice *teshuvah*, but that I must lead the organization to recommit to deeper levels of empathetic listening, paying attention, and hearing beyond words to the soul and meaning of what is there. We can approach this as our organization's new beginning for a good year. Together, we must all kindle the lights that show the way to increased partnership, increased awareness of the plight faced by so many children in Connecticut and our joint roles in changing their stories, barren of hope, to transformational stories.

I come to you with the promise to carry out our mission of mobilizing and channeling the generosity of caring and faithful people to advocate for, mentor and provide direct assistance to Connecticut's children and youth who are neglected, abused or at-risk. This means that our programs operate at the highest possible level, that our partnerships with sister agencies continue to grow and blossom, that we reach out to our faith-based organizations who work so closely with us and revitalize our relationships with them, that we reach out to all the faith-based groups in Connecticut and share our vision for the children, asking all of them to join with us in achieving that vision.

Can we achieve the possibility of a pos-

itive future for our children? Can we, through our Advocacy, our Mentoring, our Critical Goods and our Adopt a Social Worker programs, make a difference? Twenty years of experience says we can; alumni of our programs say we can; the traditions of the world's faiths say we can – with your help, with your commitment of time and money, with your prayers, and with your leadership we can!

Thank you for welcoming me to Covenant to Care for Children and allowing me to begin to be part of this mission and vision, to be a small part of that future in which all of the children of Connecticut have both hope and possibilities.

*L'shanah tovah*

Caryl Hallberg,  
Executive Director

Do you do many internet searches?

CCC earns 1 cent for every search done in our name on [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com). Just search with our name, "Covenant to Care for Children," Thanks.

## From the Board Chair

by Jeannie Bohner, Chair, Board of Directors

The Board of Directors, Staff, and Friends of Covenant to Care for Children welcome Caryl J. Hallberg, our new Executive Director. Caryl comes to the Northeast from Napa, California where she was Executive Director of the Volunteer Center of Napa Valley. Caryl brings a wealth of experience in strategic planning, development of funding sources, and marketing and promotion, along with a personal style that is warm, engaging, and embracing of people and ideas. All of us at Covenant to Care for Children look forward to new growth in our ability to serve the children of Connecticut under Caryl's able leadership.

The Board would also at this time recognize the capable work for CCC by Yovanna Wedderburn, Director of Agency Operations and Acting Executive Director through the transition period. Transitions are rarely easy, but Yovanna's dedication to CCC made this latest transition productive, not just a maintaining of the status quo.

Welcome to Caryl and thanks to Yovanna and the whole staff for their efforts on behalf of the children of Connecticut.

Jeannie Bohner, Chair, Board of Directors

Covenant to Care for Children wishes to extend heartfelt gratitude for a grant received from the Northwest Community Bank for our Critical Goods Delivery Program.



Welcome Luncheon for New Executive Director with Staff and Board  
L to R front row: Chastity Taylor; Yovanna Wedderburn; Caryl Hallberg; Jeffery Harris back row: Radha Radhakrishnan, Treasurer; Marina Ioffe; Jeannie Bohner, Board Chair; Patience Quinn; Dave Santis; Meral Prewitt.

## Beds for Children

by Charlie Mulholland, Critical Goods Coordinator

As many readers of our website may be aware, Covenant to Care for Children no longer accepts donations of used beds due to the outbreak of a bedbug problem in Hartford and other towns. While CCC has never had a problem with any of the beds donated to us, we cannot afford to risk handing out beds that have become infested with bedbugs. In order to furnish the clients of social workers with beds, we are now depending on private donations, grants from various foundations (a list is provided at the end of the article), the \$500.00 in gift cards (monthly) and trailer loads of beds and furniture (periodically) that we receive from Bob's Discount Furniture, and the money raised by Bethany Covenant Church during their annual Bed Drive.

Unfortunately, the bedbug problem has not only restricted the number of beds we can pass out, it has also increased the need for beds as people living in the affected buildings have had to throw out their beds due to infestation. For six years the Critical Goods Program had not received any requests

for beds that cited bedbug infestation as the reason for the request. Since the Fall of 2006, however, the program has received a number of requests to replace beds that have become infested, and these requests appear to be increasing in frequency.

Recently, the Critical Goods Program received a request for beds from an urban social worker for a mother with six children living in very cramped circumstances. Their beds had become infested with bedbugs and one of the children had developed infections from the bites. Bedbugs are not only a nuisance, but can constitute a serious health risk. Due to the generosity of Bob's and Bethany Covenant Church we had gift cards and money on hand to purchase two sets of bunk beds and a twin bed for the family. They also received a nice dining table with six chairs, a sofa, and several dressers that Bob's had donated. Since we had funds on hand to purchase beds, the family was able to throw out the old beds, have the landlord bring in an exterminator that day, and receive the new beds the next day. Not all families are

so fortunate. This case demonstrates how individuals, businesses and congregations can make a tangible difference in the lives of those caught in circumstances not necessarily of their own making. As this problem grows, it will become increasingly important for others to step forward to meet the need that this problem will engender.

As coordinator of the Critical Goods Program, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the various organizations and foundations who have generously funded the program and provided money for beds over the past year: **Bob's Discount Furniture, Bethany Covenant Church, United Way of the Capital Area, William and Alice Mortenson Foundation, Ensworth Foundation, SBM Charitable Foundation, Swindells Charitable Foundation, and Schaller Auto World Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain.** It has been a real pleasure distributing the goods made possible by their generosity, and witnessing the joy and gratitude of the children and families who benefit from their largesse.

## 5 Things you can do to make a difference

1. Attend our Bernie's Venetian Carnival.  
For reservations, call (860) 243-1806
2. Volunteer as a mentor
3. Make a monthly pledge to support your favorite program
4. Volunteer to help deliver beds with Charlie
5. Make a holiday donation to your clients in the name of your business