



Fairfield County
Job & Family

Services

Michael E. Orlando,
Director

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Dear Editor:

During the 2006 winter holiday season, Fairfield County Job & Family Services once again had the privilege of creating a memorable holiday for 119 families with 350 children in Fairfield County. The holiday wishes of an additional 121 children currently in the custody of the agency were also able to be fulfilled. Because of the generosity of the Fairfield County community, the monumental challenge to meet the needs of our most vulnerable children was once again met.

As we transition from the winter holiday season into early spring, it is essential to bring attention to those children victimized by child abuse and neglect and to help increase advocacy and community awareness to this growing national problem. April is observed, both locally and nationally, as Child Abuse Prevention Month. The event will be highlighted by the sixth annual Candlelight Walk at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 19. Participants will carry candles to "Light the Way of Hope" for abused and neglected children in Fairfield County. By carrying a candle, participants can symbolically help create a path of light for the children of Fairfield County who suffer through the darkness of abuse and neglect every year. The walk will begin at Fairfield County Job & Family Services, located at 239 West Main Street, and will continue to the gazebo on Zane Square.

In addition to the outpouring of generosity shown by the Fairfield County community during the holiday season, the community involvement in past Candlelight Walks and other events hosted by our agency has been significant. It is heartwarming to know that we are not alone in our efforts to improve the quality of life for the children and families of our community. We are once again blessed with the opportunity to witness selfless acts of kindness and the difference those acts make in a child's life.

Sincerely,



Michael E. Orlando

Director, Fairfield County Job & Family Services