

FAMILY TO FAMILY: FACES OF HOPE

Quarterly Newsletter for Family
Centered Services of CT

IN THIS ISSUE

SPRING COCKTAIL PARTY

WELCOME, LAURA!

8TH ANNUAL WALK AGAINST DV

STORIES FROM THE FIELD



Annual Spring Cocktail Party & Auction

Our Annual Spring Cocktail Party & Auction was a hit! We were lucky to have Fox61 Meteorologist Matt Scott as our Guest Auctioneer, who kept us laughing - and bidding - all night! Caribbean Vibe brought the tropical weather to Amarante's Sea Cliff as we enjoyed live music during Cocktail Hour while we bid on lots of exciting silent auction prizes.

In total, we raised over \$14,000 for the programs and services of Family Centered Services of CT. To say we are grateful for your support would be an understatement! We are so thankful to live in a community that values philanthropy, which allows us to continue to provide much-needed services to the clients that we serve within the Greater New Haven area.



If you missed our Annual Spring Cocktail Party & Auction this year - don't worry! You can still get involved with Family CT in lots of other ways. Email development@familyct.org to learn more about how you can make a difference.

FACES OF HOPE

Vol. 1 | Issue 2

Welcome, Laura!

Family CT is excited to have Laura Rainey join us as our newest part time Caregiver Support Team (CST) Clinician. CST is an intensive in-home service that provides family and child focused services to family members who have become licensed to provide foster care to a relative. Laura comes to Family CT with six years experience working for Foster Adoptive Mission, where she worked recruiting foster families in New Haven and Milford.

Laura earned her Bachelor of Arts from Southern CT State University and her Master of Arts in Teaching from Sacred Heart. Laura is fitting right in at Family CT - she says, "I love this job. I love meeting with people, hearing their stories, and helping them."

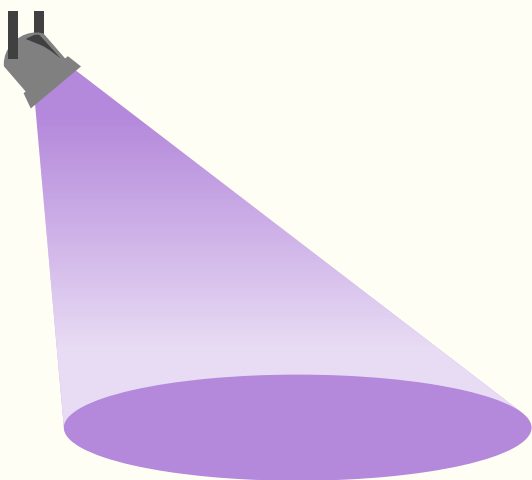
When Laura is not at work, she loves spending time with her two teenagers, and spends most of her free time cheering them on at their sporting events. This summer, Laura is looking forward to going on her annual family vacation to the Outer Banks with her extended family - all 25 of them!



Save The Date!

Don't miss Family CT's 8th Annual Walk Against Domestic Violence on Saturday, October 13th. Join us as we walk throughout East Rock starting at 10am to Shine a Light on Domestic Violence, followed by lunch and of course ice cream, donated by Ashley's Ice Cream! You won't want to miss your chance to win some amazing raffle prizes, so make sure to mark your calendars and bring the whole family. We hope to see you on October 13th!

for more information on our 8th Annual Walk Against Domestic Violence, please contact development@familyct.org



FACES OF HOPE

Vol. 1 | Issue 2

Stories from the Field

When I tell most people that I work with 8th graders, or thirteen and fourteen year olds, people generally cringe and question my sanity, or on a good day, tell me that I'm brave and must have the patience of a saint.

For some reason, this particular age group has gotten somewhat of a bad rap, but hormones aside, I would argue that they are the best to work with for the two simple reasons: that they are old enough to be trusted with some independence, but are young enough to still be so impressionable.

It's been only one week since our students have successfully completed the Teen Outreach Program, or TOP, and have graduated the 8th grade. This specially designed positive youth development program helps at-risk kids learn to navigate the sticky, "rite of passage" situations that arise in middle school and high school, as well as address some of the other challenges that are unique to living in urban cities like Bridgeport and New Haven.

The insurmountable success that has happened from the beginning of the school year until now can be measured in many ways. For some students, it's as simple as showing a smile, or making eye contact during a friendly conversation.

For other students, it's staying after school or giving up a Saturday morning to work on a community service learning project - something that was once strongly detested, but is now loved. And then for the students that will always hold a special place in my heart, it's feeling supported enough to speak candidly about those challenges that I had previously mentioned, and brave enough to ask for help.

Some departing words from my students include things like, "Every Wednesday and Thursday, you came to our school with a smile on your face and a kind word for us," or, from my student who graduated with a multitude of medals and a most improved award, but without a single family member to witness him, "Thank you to all of my teachers for always trying to push me to become a better person. You guys are my role models and I wouldn't be who I am today without you. You made me ready to face any challenge, and I can't thank you enough for being there when I needed it."

My students' resiliency is inspiring and humbling, and I am forever grateful to work for a program that truly makes a difference in the lives of kids.

-Allie Beaulieu

Teen Outreach Program (TOP) Facilitator

Follow us on social media!



@familyctnh



@familyct



@familyctnh



@familyct