



**The Shelter
for Women**

A subsidiary of the Village for Families & Children, Inc.

S U M M E R

Friends

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Rep. Marie Lopez Kirkley Bey, Village board member, Beth Bombara, senior vice president & controller of The Hartford, & Village board member Galo Rodriguez, president & CEO the Village sit before The Hartford's Professional Women's Network and other community leaders who were at the Center for Family Life to learn about the Community Life Program for Girls and ways they can become involved.

Women's History Month Celebration March 29, 2011 The Center for Family Life at Gray Lodge

Members of **The Hartford's Professional Women's Network**, Asylum Hill community leaders along with Village for Families & Children board and Shelter for Women advisory council members gathered to learn more about the new **Community Life Program for Girls** funded in part by The Hartford to align with their new strategy to improve the **Asylum Hill Neighborhood** for local residents and employees.

The Community Life Programs for Girls will serve young women from primarily the Asylum Hill neighborhood. Through small group discussions, one-on-one coaching and case management, the program will focus on life skills, financial literacy and academic support. The Center's program will support its participants achieve greater self-confidence, authenticity in relationships and enhanced judgment skills.

Beth Bombara, senior vice president and controller at The Hartford, and a board member of the Village, "We want to make a difference for the families that live here, the children who study and play here and for the people who work here.

The Community Life Programs for Girls will provide young women with the skills essential for success and empower them to reach their full potential."

"Our goal is to expand and better serve the Hartford community and meet the changing needs of young women and their families within this neighborhood," said **Galo Rodriguez**, president and CEO of The Village. "We are grateful for the continued support The Hartford has demonstrated to our community."

State Representative **Marie Lopez Kirkley-Bey** was among the speakers at the event and emphasized the importance of community-based services. "As a long time resident of Asylum Hill and as the state representative for this district I would like to personally thank The Hartford for their continued and generous support in Asylum Hill," said Kirkley Bey. "The additional services being offered at the Center with The Hartford's support will give the young women in Asylum Hill the tools and support to change their lives and I know firsthand that these services are needed here to help accomplish these changes."

The Shelter For Women Mission:

The Shelter for Women helps young Connecticut women who have experienced abuse and neglect make sustainable progress toward recovery and independence by providing clinical, residential and educational support in a safe, caring environment.



Lexi and Elizabeth Edwards connect at the CT Youth Forum in September 2008. Photographer: Wayne Dombkowski

CT Youth Forum Enriches Student's Life!

Lexi a vibrant 18 year old who lives at Alison Gill Lodge* in Manchester has made the CT Youth Forum (CYF) a big part of her life for the past four years. While in her freshman year at Hall High in West Hartford Lexi spotted a CYF flyer in a study hall and called to find out more. She joined the CYF and said her involvement with the CYF through her high school years has made a positive impact on her sometimes difficult life. Lexi is proud to be a member of the Connecticut Forum Advisory Board.

Lexi will be attending Quinnipiac University in the fall and she credits the CYF with getting her involved in and interested in current issues, literature and more. She has met some amazing people, world leaders, famous authors, and many others who are committed to making a difference in the world. The Forum staff and other CYF members were and continue to be a constant presence in her life as they have helped to ground her and keep her focused on her education.

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The Shelter for Women and the Village for Families and Children would like to thank the CT Youth Forum and all of the wonderful organizations and individuals in the Greater Hartford Area who help to make a difference in the lives of young women and girls.

The Center for Family Life at Gray Lodge resulted from the affiliation between The Shelter for Women and the Village for Families & Children, Inc., on July 1, 2010.

Our goal is to expand and better serve the Hartford community to meet the changing needs of girls and their families within the neighborhood of Asylum Hill.



We would like to thank our community partners who have invested in the newly established Center for Family Life at Gray Lodge. You are making a difference.

CENTER FOR FAMILY LIFE PROGRAMS & SERVICES

- ▶ NURTURING FAMILIES NETWORK
- ▶ FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY
- ▶ Child FIRST
- ▶ EARLY CHILDHOOD CLINICAL SERVICES
- ▶ ACADEMY FOR SUCCESSFUL FAMILIES
- ▶ COMMUNITY LIFE PROGRAMS FOR GIRLS

Open House
Friday • June 24, 2011
11:00 - 2:00 pm

- ▶ Asylum Hill Congregational Church
- ▶ Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation
- ▶ CT Department of Children and Families
- ▶ Newman's Own Foundation
- ▶ The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc.
- ▶ Travelers Foundation

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***Alison Gill Lodge is a therapeutic group home in Manchester serving young women aged 14 to 21, founded in 1987 by the Shelter for Women.**

We thank all of our loyal donors for all of the gifts you have given.
 You have made a difference in the lives of many young women, girls & their families!

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Teels Marsh Grant Provides Opportunities for Growth!

"We would like to support the young women at Alison Gill Lodge this year with our \$3,000 grant. Alison Gill was a friend and it was important for her to provide special activities to the young women who live at Alison Gill Lodge, we are pleased to be able to continue this tradition."* Barbara Drew, Teel's Marsh Foundation

The grant has provided the girls with yoga classes taught by Erika Halford, a certified yoga instructor and alumni of Gray Lodge from 1994.



During winter vacation the girls visited Mystic Aquarium and the CT Trolley Museum. In April there were two trips, one to Boston where the girls spent the day at the Boston Science Museum where their favorite exhibit was "How Your Life Began". The girls had a fun and educational experience and will be able to hold on to the memory of going to Boston while at AGL. They also visited New York City taking a train from New Haven into Grand Central Station, and they learned how to take the subway to Times Square which gave the staff the opportunity to implement a practical life skills lesson on public transportation. The girls walked around Times Square, took in the sites and went to Madame Tussauds Wax Museum which they really enjoyed.

There is more to come - theater, summer trips and a ropes course challenge for the entire Alison Gill Lodge house including staff. We want to thank Barbara and her family for making all of these wonderful experiences possible for the young women at Alison Gill Lodge!

7/1/10 - 5/15/11 • We have checked our lists carefully. Please contact us with omissions or errors.

Please consider a gift to SFW. Visit our website www.shelterforwomen.org to learn more.

Please plan on joining us for the
11th Annual Girl Within Luncheon
Wednesday December 7th
at the Marriott Downtown Hartford

The Shelter for Women & Friends of the Family Advisory Council Members are delighted to announce this year's luncheon keynote speaker **Joette Katz, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Children & Families** formerly a CT Supreme Court Judge who stepped down from the bench to take the hardest job in state government: heading up the huge and troubled Department of Children & Families. The new commissioner has been called, smart, tough and fair; hard charging and opinionated; and a new start. The new commissioner stated in a recent Hartford Magazine interview that she will "need to educate the public as I educate myself. We are doing phenomenal work. (However,) when it comes to these kids, good isn't good enough. It's got to be a better assessment of what the child needs and what the family needs. If I had to rename DCF, it would be the Department of Children, Families and Communities. These kids belong with their families, and their families belong to their communities. It's got to be a more holistic approach."

We welcome the commissioner who will share with us at this year's luncheon "How you can help" to better the lives of Connecticut's children, these are our children, and this is their future."

The Village has placed thousands of children in Foster Care in our 200+ year legacy, to learn how you can become a Foster or Adoptive Parent, visit www.villageforchildren.org.



The Travelers Information Technology Leadership Development Program (ITLDP) has chosen the Shelter for Women a subsidiary of the Village for Families and Children as the charity for this year's **Travelers ITLDP Golf Tournament**

Date: July 29th

*Golf Course: Tunxis Plantation
Farmington CT*

Registration: 10am

Reception & Dinner: approx. 4:30pm

For info, email groncari@villageforchildren.org

Please consider a legacy to the Shelter for Women

Contact **Gilda Roncari** at 860-297-0545,
email groncari@villageforchildren.org



or visit the **Leave a Legacy CT website**,
www.leavealegacyct.org for the many ways in
which you can support the SFW with a legacy.

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