



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**United Way of Coastal Fairfield County Partners with Human Services Council
to Improve Outcomes for Norwalk Public School Students**

Norwalk, Conn., May 7, 2014—The Human Services Council is pleased to announce that they are the recipient of \$25,000 from United Way of Coastal Fairfield County, via two Community Partnership Grants. This support is for the Human Services Council's Norwalk Mentor Program and Dr. Robert E. Appleby School Based Health Centers. Both programs provide critical services to Norwalk Public Schools students, both when and where they need them.

Established in 1986, the Norwalk Mentor Program, in partnership with Norwalk Public Schools, matches students in grades K-12 with positive adult role models. This program is uniquely qualified to provide Norwalk youth with a quality mentoring experience in the very location where they spend the bulk of their time—at school.

The School Based Health Centers are the only facilities in Norwalk that provide free, on-site, school based medical and mental health care. With services offered in all three Norwalk high schools and in three of the middle schools, the health centers reduce delay in initiation of treatment for health problems and return 92% of students back to class the same day.

What makes the partnership between United Way of Coastal Fairfield County and the Human Services Council exceptional is that it goes way beyond the traditional relationship of funder and grant recipient. Jim Crispino, Executive Vice President at United Way of Coastal Fairfield County, serves on the Norwalk Mentor Program's Advisory Board, providing invaluable guidance and input throughout the year. Also, The Norwalk Mentor Program is a member of the Mentoring Institute of Coastal Fairfield County, an important initiative of United Way of Coastal Fairfield County. This partnership of fourteen mentoring organizations works to increase the number of local children and youth who are matched with a mentor.

“United Way of Coastal Fairfield County is a wonderful community resource and long-standing partner of the Human Services Council,” Anthony DiLauro, Executive Director of The Human Services Council. “We are grateful for their support, which goes way

beyond writing a check, and they help us positively impact the lives of children and families in Norwalk.”

To learn more about United Way of Coastal Fairfield County, please visit their website at www.unitedwaycfc.org.

About The Human Services Council

The mission of the Human Services Council is to create and foster programs that educate, safeguard and empower the people of our communities. With a primary focus on helping children and families, its five programs address child abuse and advocacy, school-based medical and mental health services, mentoring, alcohol & drug prevention, and homelessness. The Human Services Council is home to: Children’s Connection, the Dr. Robert E. Appleby School Based Health Centers, the Mid-Fairfield Substance Abuse Coalition, the Norwalk Mentor Program, and 40 South Main Street Housing. In 2013 alone, the Human Services Council provided direct services to over 1400 people, and positively impacted the lives of over 8,000 people in the communities of New Canaan, Norwalk, Westport, Wilton, and Weston.

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