

Missions Report – June 2011

Thank you so much for your generous support of our Lenten Mission to collect funds to buy vitamins for the children of St. Vincent's School for Handicapped Children in Haiti. We collected \$570! This will go a long way in keeping our children healthy!

Closer to home, we are providing another 6 months worth of Birthday Bags for our Covenant to Care children served by our Social Worker, Christine Nucci. We could use some donations to replenish our funds for this program. Each bag costs about \$35, which includes a \$20 gift card, so if you wish to honor someone, think of donating a bag in his/her name. Please make out checks to Christ Church and put "Missions- Birthday" in the memo line.

Our next meeting is June 7 at 6 pm at the home of Donna Long. Join us!

Speaking of Covenant to Care, please read what has been provided by this organization and contact Gail Hamm or Eileen Daley if you wish to speak out on their behalf. We are part of the Adopt A Social Worker Program.

Elimination of Covenant to Care as a line item has been proposed in the Office of Policy & Management budget. Our DCF contract accounts for roughly 36% of our operating budget and pays for the salaries of our Adopt A Social Worker program coordinators allowing donations from the general public to go toward the goods and services for the over 25,000 children served every year by Covenant to Care. For every state dollar received, CCC is able to return \$6.80 in goods and services to the children of Connecticut in the form of clothes, beds and countless other immediate and essential needs.

The legislature will be voting on the final budget by June 8th, 2011. Now is the only chance you will have to express an opinion.

Please call and email all of the appropriation's committee members, and also your individual state representatives urging them to reconsider the elimination of our cost effective and critical state funding for children. Please be sure to say Covenant to Care and DCF budget when you talk or write a legislator about this issue.

Just to clarify: the line item in the DCF budget is "Covenant to Care". It is not our full name and it is not any program name.

If we can mobilize our friends in faith-based organizations and all of the social workers with whom we work we may be able to change some hearts and minds before it is too late. The children cannot wait.

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Fast Facts:

Covenant to Care for Children, Inc. (CCC)

- CCC is a 25-year-old statewide nonprofit agency.
- Our total operating budget is \$767,273 for FY 11 (July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011).
- CCC has 8 staff positions.
- 247 faith and community based organizations and businesses have covenants or are doing special projects through CCC.
- 1,900 faith and community based organizations, and businesses are on our mailing list.
- We serve the entire state of Connecticut.
- FY 11, we will have served 27,000 children statewide, children who received basic necessities through CCC's network of faith and community based organizations, volunteers, individual donors and businesses.
- FY 11, 72% of children served were on DCF caseload.
- 2,767 active volunteers statewide.
- FY 10, CCC received \$268,041 from DCF in state and federal dollars, and provided donated goods and services totaling \$1,050,831 to children and families.

For every state dollar we receive, \$6.80 is returned to the state in goods and services.

Adopt A Social Worker - Faith-based organizations adopt a DCF caseworker and sign a covenant to provide the material goods needed by the children and caregivers in the social worker's caseload. In FY 11, we project that 26,000 children were served by this program. This program has two full-time staff people.

Critical Goods Delivery Program responds to the needs of families who are at risk of losing their children or who are being reunified with their children. In FY 11, we project that 360 children were served in this program. Donations of beds, cribs, and other household items are picked up and delivered to families to satisfy the requirements for getting back or keeping their children. The program has one full time staff person.

Crisis Food Support Program is a program for delivering fresh and staple foods for one-time emergencies in families with children in the North end of Hartford and in the New Britain DCF region. We project that 400 children and 248 adults will have received assistance by the end of calendar year 2011.

Mentoring Program - a best practices one-on-one mentoring program, faith-based organizations act as host sites for the program and provide volunteers who coordinate the program. In FY 11, 22 DCF involved youth were matched with mentors. This program is critical for teens who have no positive role models, are without familial connections, and are at risk or of becoming pregnant or who have a child.

Children's Enrichment Fund responds to unusual requests for children and youth. Social workers can request these funds to cover needs of children that are not met by State Government departments, other agencies, or our other CCC programs. Examples are camp experiences, haircuts, lessons, tutoring, special books, or other aids. More than 500 children are served each year by this program.