



The Parent Leadership Training Institute<sup>SM</sup> (PLTI)  
A Civic Leadership Initiative of the Connecticut Commission on Children

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## Parents from Throughout Connecticut to Receive Their Diplomas on Wednesday

HARTFORD – Nearly 150 parents will be attending a graduation ceremony on Wednesday, June 25. But this time, they'll be the ones receiving diplomas.

The parents are graduating from the Parent Leadership Training Institute<sup>SM</sup>, a civic initiative of the Connecticut Commission on Children.

The graduates—from **Waterbury, Bridgeport, Middlesex County, East Hartford, Milford, Norwalk, Greenwich, Danbury, and Meriden**—will receive diplomas after devoting more than 100 hours to developing the skills needed to become leaders in their communities.

The graduation ceremonies begin at 6 p.m., at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford. A reception will begin at 5 p.m., in the second-floor atrium of the LOB.

The Commission on Children led the foundation of PLTI 14 years ago, after two things became apparent: that too many parents lacked the skills to get involved in civic affairs, and that they desperately *wanted* to get involved.

PLTI teaches parents how community change occurs. Their course requirements include completing community projects of their choosing. Here's a sampling of the 2008 projects:

- Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools (Middlesex County)
- Introducing Non-English Speaking Families to Preschool (Milford)
- Raising Awareness and Providing Resources for Children with ADHD (Norwalk)

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- Strengthening Bonds Between Teen Mothers and Their Babies (East Hartford)
- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren or Foster Children (Waterbury)

"The Parent Leadership Training Institute has been inspiring and training parents to become more effective advocates for children since 1992," Commission on Children Executive Director Elaine Zimmerman said. "The PLTI Class of 2008 now joins more than 1,600 alumni statewide who are making a difference by taking leadership roles with local parent-teacher organizations, boards of education, town commissions, nonprofit boards, and even the General Assembly."

Prior to the statewide graduation ceremony, the local PLTI classes held their own ceremonies.