



## Covenant to Care for Children

*Helping Connecticut's  
Children in Need.*

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### Testimony Submitted to the Appropriations Committee:

H.B. No. 5044: An Act Making Adjustments To State Expenditures For The Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017.

Submitted By: David V. Santis, Ph.D., Executive Director, Covenant to Care for Children

February 11, 2016

I am Dr. David Santis, executive director of Covenant to Care for Children.

I am here tonight to voice my opposition to the proposal in the Governor's and OPM budget to reduce Covenant to Care for Children's funding. While I understand that a number of difficult and painful decisions must be made in order to balance the budget in these difficult times, I implore you to oppose this particular cut, which will harm our neediest and most helpless citizens---the countless children who have no voice.

Covenant to Care for Children is a statewide non-profit agency that provides assistance to abused, neglected and/or impoverished children. We provide basic, essential goods for children, age's birth to 18. These basic, essential goods include new twin beds, car seats, toiletry items, diapers, and so on; anything that a child needs to succeed in school and life.

Covenant to Care for Children is unique in that we partner with over 200 faith and/or community based organizations to provide children with these basic essential goods. Many of the children receiving these goods are involved with the Department of Children and Families or are at a high risk of becoming involved with the Department. Often the goods provided by CCC, prevent the removal of the child from the home, or, in some instances, results in the reunification of the child with their caregiver(s). In still other cases, the basic goods provided prevent disruption of the family.

In FY 15, CCC provided goods to a little over 23,000 children in Connecticut, and increase of 10,000 children, over the prior Fiscal Year, and after incurring a rescission of almost 8K.

In the current FY, we have seen our funding reduced by \$8,000 and then by another \$1,600 by the discretionary authority given to the Governor. This may not seem like a lot, but to our small organization it has a serious impact. In real terms, it means, that 36 beds won't be purchased for children who have no bed to sleep in; or 80 car seats won't be purchased; or 180 school uniforms won't be purchased.

I have nothing left to cut in my budget. Our organization now has only six employees, and only two are full time. Yet we continue to see exponential increases in requests for the basic, essential goods and services we provide.

Please oppose any further budgetary cuts to Covenant to Care for Children.

Thank You

David V. Santis, Ph.D.  
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# Annual Appeal

## What We've Done Together This Past Year — Continued



### Fiscal Year 2015

- \$507,127 in gifts of goods
- 23,020 children received the gift of hope and possibility for a brighter future
- 961 Social Workers from Connecticut nonprofits and the Department of Children and Families made requests for the children in their caseloads
- 200 Faith-based Communities and Civic Groups worked toward the benefit of our children

Janae  
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for many  
Angela  
Mlover R

Merry Christmas  
Thank you Santa  
Clause for the gift  
You have gave uss  
You have made our  
Christmas special,  
I hope your  
Christmas is as  
special: Thank you

### Your donation:

- Brings a baby home from the hospital
- Reunites a family
- Provides a child a bed or crib in which to sleep
- Gives a child clothing that fits: the child, and the season
- Allows a child to attend school unashamed
- Helps a family reestablish after losing their home and belongings
- Puts food on the table
- Places a warm coat on a cold day around a little girl or boy
- Celebrates a youth's accomplishment
- Makes a child safer
- Offers hope
- Presents a future of possibilities
- Builds a smile

*Please send a gift today; our children need your help now!*

- Give online at [www.covenanttocare.org](http://www.covenanttocare.org)
- Use the enclosed envelope
- Make a bequest

Covenant to Care for Children works to create a future where Connecticut's children have caring families and safe places to live and all caring and faithful people demonstrate their own personal commitment to the welfare of children.

Covenant to Care for Children channels the generosity of caring and faithful people to advocate for, and provide direct assistance to Connecticut's children who are neglected, abused and/or impoverished.





*Bringing Hope and Possibilities to  
the Children of Connecticut!*

## Our Mission

*Covenant to Care for Children mobilizes and channels the generosity of caring and faithful people to advocate for, mentor, and provide direct assistance to Connecticut's children and youth who are neglected, abused or at-risk.*



**Covenant to Care for Children**  
*Helping Connecticut's  
Children in Need.*

**Covenant to Care for Children (CCC)** works to create a future where all Connecticut's children have caring families and safe places to live, and all people of faith demonstrate their own personal commitment to the welfare of children.

We are a statewide, nonprofit 501(c)3 agency working with faith and community organizations to meet the needs of children ages birth to twenty-one who are abused, neglected or impoverished. Through CCC's large network of faith-based organizations, community groups, volunteers, individual donors, and businesses, we provide over 28,000 services to the children of Connecticut every year, one child at a time.

### Our Programs

**Adopt A Social Worker** is the largest and oldest of our programs. Faith-based or community organizations agree to a covenant in which they partner with a particular social worker to, as far as is possible, provide for the necessary and special items needed for all of the children in that social worker's caseload. This augments the provisions of the State, often assuring greater stability in the life of a child.

**Critical Goods** is our response to the needs of families who are at-risk of losing their children, or who are being reunified with their children and must have certain material goods before that can happen: beds, cribs, and household items.

We assist children and youth in their development and growth by helping them

overcome the challenges of poverty and emotional distress. Donations of emergency and nonemergency goods are collected and delivered to families in an effort to foster safe and nurturing home environments for the children.

**Crisis Food Support\*** is a program for delivery of staples and fresh food for one-time emergencies in families with children in Greater Hartford and Greater New Britain regions.

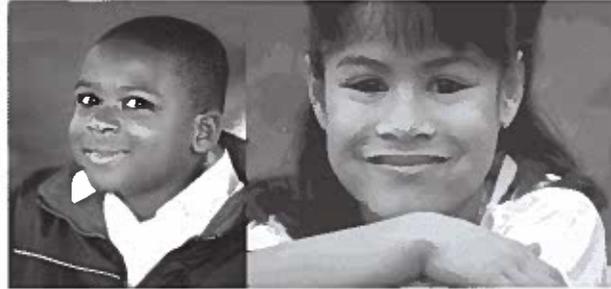
**Mentoring** focuses on children who are in need or at-risk and could use positive role models in their lives. Our mentoring program works with pre-teens, teens, and young adults 11 to 18, and older as long as the youth is pursuing an education. This project focuses on young people who are parents, are about to be parents, or who are at-risk for becoming parents and are referred to our program by a social worker.

**Children's Enrichment Fund** is a program, responding to unusual requests, that enhance our efforts to care and nurture children and youth.

This program provides a fund designed to accept donor designated funds for the special needs of children. Social workers can request these funds to meet the needs of children, which are not met by State Government departments, other agencies, or our other CCC programs. Examples are camp experiences, haircuts, lessons, tutoring, school uniforms and supplies, or other aids.

\* in partnership with Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Newington Congregational Church, and Foodshare

**Discovered Spirit Project** gives a voice to our children, through the creation of art masks, to express a wide range of emotions and help them work through conflicts and traumas. There is an array of outcomes with the children's masks ranging from the whimsical to the evocative. While expressing themselves in this visual way, the children gain a sense of empowerment that can help them develop a positive self-image and improve their self-esteem.



### **Our children need your help!**

You can invest in the future of Connecticut and help make a difference in the lives of young people by supporting Covenant to Care for Children. Please take action today!

- Alternative Gift Catalogue - is perfect for all your gift giving throughout the year
- Endowment - develops a stable financial base to generate income in support of CCC programs
- Donate Furniture - donations reunify families
- Involve your faith-based or community organization - begin the conversation, invite us to speak with your group
- Covenant Club - provides a means for you to have your good works carried out well-beyond your lifetime
- Monetary - gifts of cash are required for the ongoing work of CCC
- Cars and Boats - donations translate to cash for our programs
- Visit our web-store - purchase unique, fun and useful items while supporting CCC [www.zazzle.com/covenanttocare](http://www.zazzle.com/covenanttocare)
- Volunteer - there are opportunities at every level

**Learn more at :**

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CCC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit  
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