March 5, 2019

Good evening Senator Osten, Representative Walker and esteemed members of the State Appropriations Committee.

I am Nancy Fleming, finance manager for Covenant to Care for Children (CCC), and I am here to comment on H.B. 7148, An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June Thirtieth, 2021, and Making Appropriations Therefor.

Covenant to Care for Children is a statewide agency which for over 32 years has provided basic essential goods to Connecticut’s abused, neglected and/or impoverished children aged birth to 18.

I am here tonight to ask that you support the Governor’s proposed level of funding to CCC at $161,412 so that we may continue our mission to assist Connecticut’s most helpless citizens, the countless children who have no voice.

The basic essential goods which CCC provides to these at risk children include, but are not limited to new twin beds, car seats, strollers, toiletry items, diapers, clothing – including winter coats - school supplies and school uniforms. As of December 31, 2018, CCC has provided these basic essential goods to more than 5000 of Connecticut’s most vulnerable children.

Covenant to Care for Children is unique in that we partner with over 100 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 high risk of becoming involved with the Department. Often the goods provided by CCC prevent the removal of a child from the home. In some instances, we are able to provide goods necessary for reunification of a child with his or her caregiver. In still other cases, these basic essential goods may help prevent disruption of the family.

Please support the funding to Covenant to Care for Children included in the Governor’s budget so that CCC may continue to help Connecticut’s neediest children see a brighter future for themselves.

Thank you,

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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.

One Million Children Initiative Update
Our Goal = One Million
814,500 through September 2018

Sponsorship Corner

Covenant to Care for Children (CCC) is pleased and grateful to IMI Precision Engineering, Farmington, CT, for the donation of brand new bicycles to be shared with the children whom we serve. CCC received these bicycles during a special pre-game presentation at the Yard Goats game on June 26th.

The bicycles were purchased and put together by the employees of IMI Precision. The enthusiasm of the employees was contagious and was also shared as the bicycles were distributed to children, age 4 to teens, across the state. Again, many thanks to IMI for their generosity of goods and spirit.

A Success Story

Recently, Covenant to Care for Children (CCC) delivered goods to a single mother living in Torrington, who was pregnant with her third child. She had been working, but her doctor determined that her pregnancy was high risk and prescribed bed rest, which resulted in her leaving her job.

Without this income, providing material goods for her children became very difficult, and she had her children's school social worker request help on her behalf. With a grant from Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation, CCC was able to supply the mother with two twin beds with sheets and pillows, a crib, and a car seat. The mother is very grateful and wishes to express her appreciation to all who helped her.
Some Highlights Of The Year

Beginning in July, things begin to get very busy around the office. It may be hard to believe, but we begin to work on back to school. Backpacks and school supplies are ordered. Once again, the kids from Camp Washington came and spent a morning unpacking backpacks and stuffing them with school supplies. When they finish, 500 backpacks are ready for distribution. By the time we were done, 735 had been given out through the office. This does not include what other organizations in partnership with and/or matched with a social worker provided.

The backpacks were barely out the door, when it was time to begin to think about and organize the holiday drive. Beginning in October, requests from social workers began to be accepted. In mid-November, over 1,200 children have been matched with organizations that will fill these requests. It is estimated that by the time the holidays are over, 1,800 children or more will have received a gift. And, once again, this does not include what organizations matched with a social worker will provide.

It has turned cold, almost overnight. Consequently, we are seeing an increase in requests for warm coats, hats, gloves and mittens. We have reached out to several cleaners in the area for donations of unclaimed items, but we still need new or gently used coats of all sizes for children.

Thanks to all the matched and/or other organizations in collaboration with CCC who provided goods to 11,227 children last year valued at $329,464. Certainly, there is no way CCC could have reached this number alone. And that is what CCC is all about, leveraging relationships and collaborations with many organizations to provide basic, essential goods to abused, neglected and/or impoverished children in Connecticut.

If you have not noticed, CCC completely redesigned its website this past fall. If you are a social worker or liaison, please note that most of the program and reporting forms can now be filled out and submitted online. Check it out!!

These are just the highlights of the past year. There is much more that could be mentioned: 135 children received assistance to purchase a school uniform, groups of volunteers sorted donated clothing, or the success of the new fundraiser Brackets For Good ($1,700) etc., but space is limited.

As I close, I would like to highlight our one million children initiative. Our goal = One Million. The number of kids provided assistance, as of September 30, 2018, is 814,500 Please help move us toward our goal of one million by sending a generous donation in the enclosed envelope, visiting our website to donate, or calling the office to provide your credit card information.

Thank You,

Dave
Executive Director
Annual Appeal

What We’ve Done Together This Past Year

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

Fiscal Year 2018

• $329,464 in gifts of goods
• 11,227 kids received the gift of hope and possibility for a brighter future
• 1,325 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

Thank you for donating the bike.
Now I'm able to ride to school and place to need to get to.

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

• Give online at 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.