

UNITED WAY OF CONNECTICUT

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PRESS RELEASE

United Way of Connecticut President, Michael P. Meotti, attends National Summit on America's Children

Rocky Hill, CT, May 24, 2007 –

Congressman John Larson (CT-1) appointed United Way of Connecticut's President Michael P. Meotti to represent Connecticut's First Congressional District at the "National Summit on America's Children". National experts and scientists gathered in Washington DC Tuesday to attend this bipartisan summit convened by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on early childhood development. The meeting gave House members an opportunity to hear from national experts on recent scientific findings and how they relate to early childhood development.

"The United Way of Connecticut (UWC) plays a major role in helping families with children connect to a wide range of community services. Our role as the state association of the Connecticut United Way system and as operator of the 2-1-1 health and human service access point for the State provides us unique perspective on what government and community service providers are doing in the areas of early childhood", said Mike Meotti.

The United Way of Connecticut receives nearly 700,000 calls a year from residents across the state through its 2-1-1 health and human service line and specialized units. When families face tough questions about children with potential developmental delays, Child Development Infoline connects them to the state's Birth-to-3 program, medical homes and the Help Me Grow program. UWC connects parents to licensed childcare providers and preschool programs through the 2-1-1 Child Care program. HUSKY Infoline helps parents learn and apply for HUSKY coverage, and provides case advocacy when families already in the program encounter problems in making it work for them.

Mr. Meotti and the organization have also taken a leadership role in many federal, state, and local organizations around Early Childhood such as the Governor's Early Childhood Research and Policy Council, Governor's Cabinet on Early Childhood, and the Youth Futures Committee.

The United Way of Connecticut estimates the United Way system investment in Early Childhood Initiatives across the state was \$14 million last year. Local United Ways across the state are engaging in community impact strategies that focus on Early Childhood – from funding HEAD START programs to providing funds for Parenting Education.

Simply dial 2-1-1 for more information on Early Childhood Services in Connecticut. To access our searchable database or read more consumer information on this issue, go to www.211ct.org.

About United Way of Connecticut/ 2-1-1

Did you know Connecticut 2-1-1, is one of the national models for connecting individuals to the valuable human services they need? This easy-to-use, free, and multilingual service provides anyone in Connecticut with a single access point to find child care providers, emergency shelter, substance abuse treatment, or volunteer services whether it is provided by federal, state, local governments, the private sector or nonprofit organizations.

2-1-1 is administered by the United Way of Connecticut and is a funded partnership of the Connecticut United Ways and the State of Connecticut. 2-1-1 provides toll-free information, referral, and crisis hotline support 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In 2006 we provided service to nearly 700,000 calls and over 800,000 web visits.