

**eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca**

hartford region

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YWCA Time Out for Parents (TOP) Program Hosts Open House at its New Location

Hartford, CT – May 18, 2009 Time Out for Parents (TOP) a child abuse prevention program of the YWCA of the Hartford Region, has been keeping Manchester families together for more than 25 years. This week the program hosted an open house, celebrating the move to its new location at 11 Center Street in the Center Congregational Church. TOP expects that families will benefit from the move as the program is now centrally located and easily accessed by public transportation.



Raising children can be difficult and overwhelming for some parents, especially those struggling with mental health issues, substance abuse, or heightened levels of stress. TOP supports the preservation of families by addressing contributing factors to child abuse and neglect, such as the inability to maintain stable employment and housing, financial hardships, divorce/separation, or difficulty in handling their children's behavior.



While parents work toward improving their individual challenges, their children are cared for in a safe, nurturing and supportive environment by compassionate and professionally trained staff.

The TOP program provides: case management services and crisis counseling, therapeutic child care, assistance in finding community resources, parent education and support groups, medical screenings for children and referrals to additional community providers as needed. The TOP program manager works closely with a network of local community providers, Manchester's Human Services Department, and DCF social workers to provide a range of services that help caregivers improve parenting skills and strengthen healthy relationships with their children.

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The YWCA also operates a TOP program at the YWCA's Growing Tree Early Learning Center in Hartford. To learn more about the program please contact program manager Nikia Newkirk at (860) 645-2244 or via email at nikian@ywcahartford.org

Established in 1867, The YWCA of the Hartford Region is the third oldest affiliate of the YWCA USA, a women's membership movement dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, just freedom and dignity for all. The YWCA of the Hartford Region provides valued programs and services in the greater Hartford area including, child care, supportive housing, teen leadership development, racial justice awareness and financial literacy.

Photo 1 (l-r): Teacher Assistant at YWCA Manchester TOP Renee Jones, YWCA TOP Case Manager Nikia Newkirk and Mayor Louis A. Spadaccini with children from the Time Out for Parents program.

Photo 2: Town of Manchester Human Services Director Mary Roche Cronin with YWCA Time out for Parents program participant.

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