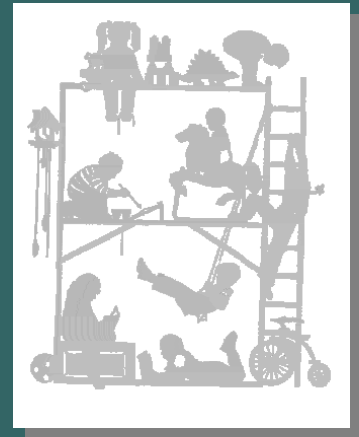









CT Voices for Children



First for Kids 2000 Celebration






*Honoring citizens for
effective advocacy
and public leadership
on behalf of all of
Connecticut's children,
youth and families*



December 5, 2000

*The New Haven Lawn Club
193 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, Connecticut*

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



*Connecticut Voices for Children
33 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, CT 06510*

ABOUT CT VOICES FOR CHILDREN

Connecticut Voices for Children is a statewide nonprofit organization committed to promoting leadership, policy change and investment on behalf of *all* of Connecticut's children and youth. We believe that *all* of Connecticut's young people need to grow up healthy and safe, have opportunities for successful learning from birth through adulthood, live free from the limiting effects of poverty, prosper under the loving guidance of caring adults, and have the opportunity to give something back to their communities along the way. Connecticut has the capacity and resources to make this vision a reality for children living throughout the state, from Greenwich to Putnam, Avon to New Haven, and Essex to Hartford.

CT Voices for Children works on a broad range of issues, including state tax & budget, family economic security, children's health and mental health, supports for grandparents raising their grandchildren, technology and learning, early care and education, youth workforce investment, and Connecticut's income, digital, health and educational divides. Our research and policy reports are widely cited by the media and other organizations and are all published on our website, CT KidsLink — www.ctkidslink.org.

Voices also founded and supports the CT Child and Family Advocacy Network, the CT Child and Family Research Partnership, and the CT Girls and Technology Network. We were a founding partner in Camp Totokett, the widely-honored Greater New Haven area summer experience for children living with HIV/AIDS. We celebrate accomplishment and service by both young people and adults through our annual Youth Spirit Awards in April and our First for Kids Awards in December. Our Young Policy Fellows program attracts terrific college and graduate students who desire a range of experiences in policy analysis and advocacy.

Our active communications program includes sending E-Notes, our electronic newsletter, to 2000+ residents of Connecticut and beyond. We provide general and targeted mailings on a variety of topics, and we annually host a series of forums to bring Connecticut and national thinkers together on the kinds of issues identified above.

And because policy change is often possible only through legislation, Connecticut Voices for Children works closely with our partner lobbying organization, Advocates for Connecticut's Children and Youth, Inc., which mobilizes concerned citizens to work on these issues in the Connecticut General Assembly each year.

CT VOICES FOR CHILDREN
2nd Annual *First for Kids* Ceremony

Welcome

POLICY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Lt. Governor M. Jodi Rell

ALBERT J. SOLNIT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Senator Toni Harp

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY AWARD

Fernando Betancourt

CITIZEN ADVOCACY AWARDS

Eva Bunnell

Norma Schatz

VISION TO ACTION AWARDS

Paula Armbruster

Anne Calabresi

Henry Fernandez, III

Matthew Klein

Roslyn Meyer

Jerome Meyer

Founders of LEAP—Leadership, Education, and Athletics in Partnership, Inc.

CT VOICES FOUNDERS' AWARD

Priscilla "Penny" F. Canny

Closing Remarks

POLICY LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Honorable M. Jodi Rell Lieutenant Governor, State of Connecticut

Described by The Hartford Courant as Gov. John Rowland's "best asset...a beacon for progress and a moral compass for the administration..." Lt. Governor M. Jodi Rell is an extraordinary role model. Through both executive and legislative presence, and through the use of her "special voice," she is a leader across a broad range of issues, including disease research, education, environmental issues, veterans services, and information technology.

It is for her work in educational and information technology that CT Voices is proud to present Lt. Governor Rell with this year's "Policy Leadership Award."

Faced with the hard reality that Connecticut was not adequately preparing its students for life and work in the nation's New Economy, Lt. Governor Rell convened and led a broad working group to identify the issues and make a set of proposals for change to the Governor. In the fall of 1999, she presented the Governor with a comprehensive plan to ensure that Connecticut schools and libraries were adequately equipped and educationally ready to help all of the state's citizens, younger and older, participate in learning, commerce and citizenship through information technology.

Her 19-point plan, nearly all of which has been approved by the CT General Assembly, recommended that all students be "cyber-ready" by the sixth grade and that all K-12 classrooms be fully wired for technology and connected to the Internet. Also included in her plan was a recommendation to establish a Connecticut Education Network to link colleges, libraries and schools electronically. Once implemented, the plan will offer Connecticut's children, teachers and parents state-of-the-art information technology throughout Connecticut classrooms.

Born in Norfolk, Virginia, Lt. Gov. Rell attended Old Dominion University and Western Connecticut State University. She was elected to her present office in 1994 and re-elected in 1998. She is the first Republican female Lieutenant Governor in Connecticut history.

She and her husband Lou live in Brookfield and are the parents of two grown children, Meredith and Michael.

ALBERT J. SOLNIT LEADERSHIP AWARD

**Senator Toni Harp
Assistant State Senate Majority Leader**

When Senator Toni Harp takes on an issue, legislators and policy makers around the State of Connecticut take note. Her persistent, impassioned, and highly-effective efforts in the areas of children's health and mental health, child welfare, supports for low-income families, and early care and education have earned her this year's "Albert J. Solnit Leadership Award." This special award is given to individuals who have made a lifelong commitment to policy leadership and excellence on behalf of children.

During her tenure as State Senator, Toni Harp has championed many initiatives, including the expansion of health insurance for uninsured children, increases in the minimum wage, promoting Healthy Start--an early detection system for child abuse, creating a truancy court and assuring the safety of children in child care. She has also taken a leadership role in two areas of great concern to CT Voices for Children, children's mental health and assistance for grandparents raising their grandchildren.

CT Voices for Children is proud to join other organizations who have honored Senator Harp. This year alone, Senator Harp received the Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics' annual award; the *Woman of the Year Award* from the African-American Affairs Commission, and the *2000 Family Legislator of the Year Award* for her extraordinary efforts to strengthen families in our state. She has also been honored by the CT Children in Placement program for her contribution on behalf of Connecticut's abused and neglected children.

Senator Harp is currently serving her fourth term as the Connecticut State Senator from the 10th Senatorial District, representing New Haven and West Haven. In addition to her role as Assistant Senate Majority Leader, she is the Chair of the Legislature's Public Health Committee, the Appropriations Sub-Committee on Health and Hospitals, and the Appropriations Sub-Committee on Human Services.

Senator Harp is a resident of New Haven where she and her husband Wendell Harp are the parents of Djana, Jamil and Matthew.

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY AWARD

Fernando Betancourt

There are rare instances when you meet a person whose personal generosity and kindness of spirit are coupled with extraordinary commitment and a fierce determination to stand for what is “right.” The union of these values *is* Fernando Betancourt, and CT Voices for Children is honored to present him with the First for Kids Community Advocacy Award.

Fernando Betancourt has a long history of standing up and speaking out about what is right. He came to New Haven in 1987 and served as Executive Director of the League of Urban Latino American Citizens (LULAC) National Educational Service Center. He also served as Program Director for CROSSROADS, Inc., a drug rehabilitation program under the Department of Corrections, and in 1991 he was appointed Deputy Human Resources Administrator for the City of New Haven. Mr. Betancourt also served with the New Haven Health Department Title I initiative for those living with HIV/AIDS in New Haven and Fairfield counties. Currently, Mr. Betancourt serves as the Executive Director of the State of Connecticut’s Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission. He was also recently appointed to the Commission on Public Trust and Confidence by the Chief Justice of the Connecticut State Supreme Court, Robert J. Callahan.

Using his “voice” in community advocacy Issues is not a new skill or passion for Fernando. A native of Santurce, Puerto Rico, he studied at the University of Puerto Rico and its School of Law where distinguished himself as the President of the University Chapter of the Puerto Rican Independence Party and as the National Vice President of the Youth for the Puerto Rican Independence Party. He has performed legal and legislative research in the Connecticut and Puerto Rican Legislatures, as well as for the United States Congress. Mr. Betancourt contributes as a regular columnist and political analyst for the newspaper *La Voz Hispana* and other radio and television stations covering the Latino community.

The issues that move Fernando to action are many, but they all involve equity of opportunity and equal access to fair and fundamental services. He is well-known for his work on the issues of welfare reform, racism, housing rights, services for HIV/AIDS-involved individuals, and Puerto Rico’s political history and status. CT Voices honors Fernando for his broad community leadership and advocacy for Connecticut’s young people as well.

CITIZEN ADVOCACY AWARD

Eva Bunnell

Franklin Delano Roosevelt wrote, in 1937, “The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.” Had Roosevelt known Eva Bunnell, he would have approved. For Eva Bunnell, fighting for children who have too little health care, too little mental health service and too few advocates has been her life’s work, and CT Voices for Children is proud to present her with the *First for Kids* Citizen Advocacy Award.

As is often the case for many truly effective child advocates, the first call to action comes on behalf of someone you know personally. Eva Bunnell’s work as a child advocate on behalf of children with special health care needs began with her aggressive, impassioned, and effective advocacy on behalf of her own daughter. Over time, her work expanded to helping parents of other children with special health care needs become advocates in their own right.

The power of her public voice has taken her to Congress where she has testified on several occasions, including on the landmark Family and Medical Leave Act. She also served in an advisory capacity to the White House domestic policy staff on issues of children with special health care needs and, she taught an advocacy course at Yale Law School.

Ms. Bunnell was instrumental in creation of the Connecticut Family Support Council and the HUSKY B Plus child health program. As a citizen advocate, she has served on the Connecticut Birth to Three Council, the CT Family Support Council, the Blue Ribbon Commission on Long Term Care and the Governor’s Blue Ribbon Commission on Mental Health. She currently serves as Chair of the CT Medicaid Managed Care Council’s Behavioral Health Subcommittee.

An East Haddam resident where she and her husband Charles live with their four children, Ms. Bunnell has served as coordinator of the Health Care Financing Advisory Project in the Family Center at the former Newington Children’s Hospital. She also served as director of Government Relations for the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. For her personal advocacy and professional accomplishments, CT’s *NorthEast Magazine* named her one of its “People on the Cutting Edge.” CT Voices concurs.

CITIZEN ADVOCACY AWARD

Norma Schatz

There has never been a child that Norma Schatz could not love. There has never been a young person in trouble for whom Norma Schatz's could not see some promise for a better future. There has hardly been a moment when Norma Schatz did not use her citizen voice to advocate for better care, earlier intervention, and stronger investment in Connecticut's children and youth. CT Voices is privileged to honor her, in this year, with the *First for Kids* Citizen Advocacy Award.

Norma's commitment to challenged and troubled children dates back to her days on the West Hartford Board of Education in the early 1960's. She also worked as a citizen volunteer for The Bridge, West Hartford's Youth Services organization as well as for the CT Association for Human Services. In 1975, her work led to her appointment as Chairperson of the Connecticut Social Welfare Conference.

Early in her career, as a full-time volunteer, Mrs. Schatz recognized the need for organizations that worked with, and for children, to pool resources, information and their voice at the State Capitol. In 1976 she founded the Collaboration for Connecticut's Children which focused on child abuse prevention, juvenile justice and advocacy. She chaired the board until 1980 and remained a member until 1987. Her commitment to child advocacy continued through the Connecticut Coalition for the Prevention of Teen Pregnancy from 1988 to 1999.

Mrs. Schatz has served on the CT State Juvenile Justice Advocacy Committee for more than 20 years and has written extensively on the topic of children, youth and violence. She is, quite simply, Connecticut's leading citizen expert on juvenile justice.

CT Voices for Children has been especially privileged to have had Norma Schatz as a founding Board Member since our incorporation in 1995. She has brought us the wisdom of 40 years of child advocacy. She has also helped to stay true to the vision that Connecticut can make better investments in its children and youth. When she leaves our Board in December for a permanent move to Florida with her husband, our organization and the State of Connecticut will have a very large citizen voice to replace.

VISION TO ACTION AWARDS

**Paula Armbruster
Anne Calabresi
Henry Fernandez
Matthew Klein
Roslyn Meyer
Jerry Meyer**

Co-Founders of LEAP—Leadership, Education and Athletics in Partnership

Whatever you do, you need courage. Whatever course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising that tempt you to believe that your critics are right. To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires some of the same courage that a soldier needs. Peace has its victories, but it takes brave men and women to win them. Though Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote these incredible words long ago, they tell today's story of LEAP.

LEAP—Leadership, Education and Athletics in Partnership — is a year-round, nationally-honored Connecticut youth development program that today serves 1,300 children in five Connecticut cities. But LEAP was born from the vision and determination of one woman, **Anne Calabresi**, who in the summer of 1987 decided that children growing up in New Haven's public housing developments and low-income neighborhoods were too often robbed of a future. The program she initiated began with an emphasis on sports as a means to counteract children's low self-esteem, poor academic performance and simply having too much "alone time." Not surprisingly to Anne, the student response was strongly positive.

In the fall of 1990, Mrs. Calabresi and colleague **Paula Armbruster** met **Henry J. Fernandez, III**, a Yale Law School student. Together with **Roz and Jerry Meyer, Matt Klein** and others, they envisioned an even broader effort, based on an intensive summer program pairing high school and college students as mentors for younger groups of children, ages 8 to 12 years, in New Haven's public housing developments and low-income neighborhoods. And the focus on athletics was coupled with a social and academic program as well.

From its inception, the founders of LEAP believed in the power of young people to make positive changes in their communities. In addition, LEAP created a leadership training program for young adults, training local college and high school students to provide quality mentoring and tutoring to LEAP's young children, as well as providing SAT preparation and help with college applications and life skills planning.

The young children who participate in LEAP's 9th year of operation are learning to see a future, attain academic success, and work as teams. LEAP continues to graduate 100% of its high school student counselors, nearly all of whom then attend college. And college students who act as mentors and counselors talk about LEAP as a "life changing event." CT Voices for Children is most proud to present to its first-ever *Vision to Action* Award to the founders and visionaries of LEAP.

A NOTE ON THE FOUNDERS OF LEAP

Anne Calabresi, a former teacher and community leader, has served on many non-profit boards in New Haven, including the Board of Directors of the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven and the Carolyn Foundation. She is also the co-founder of the International Festival of Arts and Ideas. She remained Chair of LEAP's Board of Directors until 1997, and continues to be an active board member. Dr. Jerome Meyer, the current Secretary for LEAP's Board of Directors, calls Mrs. Calabresi a "born visionary...she strives for dreams that seem impossible to everyone else and she knows how to gather people to make them happen."

Mrs. Calabresi is a resident of Woodbridge, where she lives with her husband, the Honorable Guido Calabresi of the United States Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

Paula Armbruster, is Associate Clinical Professor, Director of Outpatient Services at the Yale Child Study Center, and the Director of Social Work Training. Nationally, she consults to the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health, the National Institute of Mental Health, Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration and the National Center for School Mental Health Assistance. She is a member and Past President of the National Consortium of Children's Mental Health Services and consults widely on children's issues internationally. Additionally, she is a member of the National Steering Committee of the Habitat for Humanity International Health Partnership, as well as a consultant to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Save the Children Foundation. She is a recipient of the Elm-Ivy Award and serves on various community boards.

Henry J. Fernandez, III, is the newly-appointed Economic Development Administrator for the City of New Haven. Henry served as LEAP's first Executive Director, building it from a small, local program to a nationally-respected model for youth development. After leaving LEAP, and prior to serving almost two years as New Haven's Executive Director of the Livable City Initiative, Mr. Fernandez was the Stupski Public Interest Ventures Fellow and a Senior Research Associate in Law at Yale Law School. He serves on the National Commission for Civic Renewal and is a Board Member of CT Voices for Children.

Matthew Klein, Executive Director of Blue Ridge Foundation New York, spent three years at LEAP, starting in his junior year at Yale College, from which he graduated in 1993. The Blue Ridge Foundation focuses on youth development, community building and the public interest use of technology. Mr. Klein's LEAP experience has proven invaluable in his present role, helping him to develop new programs in these areas. Mr. Klein, a resident of Brooklyn, N.Y., spent a year as a law clerk for the Honorable Robert L. Carter in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. Before that, Mr. Klein attended Yale Law School where he was involved in a number of public interest efforts. He was a co-director of Street Law, a program that taught law to New Haven high school students, and was student director of the House and Community Development Clinic at the Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization.

Roslyn Meyer is a clinical psychologist, a community activist and a community builder. Passionate about education and its importance in building a healthy and strong society, Dr. Meyer is committed to making high quality education available to all of Connecticut's children and youth. She has served on many educational and community boards, including The Foote School, Choate-Rosemary Hall, the Hopkins School, the Arts Council of Greater New Haven, the Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale, the Footebridge Steering Committee and the World of Difference Steering Committee. Roz is the current President of LEAP's Board of Directors.

Dr. Meyer, a resident of New Haven, lives with her husband Jerome H. Meyer, M.D. They are the parents of Rebecca, Michael and Jamie.

Jerome Meyer, a New Haven psychiatrist, artist and President of the Long Wharf Theatre, cites his work as one of the founders of LEAP as his proudest accomplishment. Dr. Meyer is currently Secretary of the Board to LEAP as well as Chairperson of its Development Committee. Dr. Meyer is a graduate of Brown University and Yale Medical School. He was involved in the Yale Family Health Care Program and was an active member of The Medical Committee for Human Rights. He interned in Pediatrics at Yale New Haven Hospital and completed his Residency in Psychiatry, where he remains on the clinical faculty. Jerry serves on numerous community boards, including Jewish Family Services, The Community Foundation of Greater New Haven, The Special Olympics World Games and is a founding board member of The Elm Shakespeare Theatre Company, among others.

CT Voices for Children created its *Vision to Action Award* to recognize and celebrate the exceptional journey from thought to product, from ideal to realization, from belief to outcome that results in true, sustainable change for the children of Connecticut and beyond. We know that there have been many times when the road to LEAP's extraordinary success has been marked by uncertainty, challenge and disbelievers. Anne, Paula, Henry, Matt, Roz and Jerry always believed. They had a vision. They acted. And many children and young people will see a new future because of their efforts.

CT VOICES' FOUNDERS' AWARD

Priscilla "Penny" F. Canny

Number Junkie... Data wonk... Disciplined researcher... Finder of the truth. Penny Canny would agree that she is all of these things. She loves to wrestle with software programs with strange sounding names that tease out "real effects" from false appearances. She "talks" to her computer about treating rows and columns of numbers with respect. She debates the fine points of quantitative methodologies with colleagues from around the nation. Fortunately, for CT Voices for Children, and for Connecticut's children, Dr. Penny Canny came in our front door as a volunteer and has never left.

Quietly and modestly Priscilla F. "Penny" Canny has spent the last three years documenting the well-being of Connecticut's children and youth as CT Voices' Director of Research. Her title, however, does not begin to describe the valuable contribution her years of experience in epidemiologic research have brought to CT Voices for Children. Nor does it describe fully the assistance she has provided to the many Young Policy Fellows whom she mentors in a multi-disciplinary approach to child advocacy and policy research.

Dr. Canny, a resident of Hamden, has been a lecturer at Yale University's School of Medicine, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health since 1997. From 1995 to 1996, she served as Assistant Dean at the Yale University School of Public Health and Epidemiology, where she administered the Masters in Public Health program, Student Affairs and Student Services. She also held the position of Associate Research Scientist in Epidemiology at Yale from 1984-1995.

At CT Voices for Children, Penny conducts primary and secondary data analysis and research on a range of health and welfare-related topics, and partners with other senior policy staff in much of our policy research and writing. She supervises student interns, serves on the CT State Data Network Committee, and is widely consulted by other non-profit and government organizations on technical issues regarding data and data analysis. Her "*State of the Child*" reports for New Haven, New Britain and other communities have raised the bar for thoroughness and quality in the essential process of assessing how well we are doing by our children and youth.

Dr. Canny is married to Dr. Christopher Canny, noted New Haven-area pediatrician. They are the parents of two children, David and Susan.

As the founders of CT Voices for Children, Shelley Geballe, Janice Gruendel, Nancy Lustman, and Judith Solomon proudly present our first ever *Founders' Award* to our own Penny Canny, data-tracker and child-watcher extraordinaire!

**1999 First for Kids
Award Ceremony Honorees**

Dr. Albert Solnit
Lifetime Service to Children

State Representative Jack Thompson
Albert J. Solnit Leadership Award

Steven Winters
Editorial Page Editor, Connecticut Post
Media Award

Rev. Gary Smith & Barbara Colley
Camp Totokett
Volunteerism Award

Marva and Willie Jones
Citizen Advocacy Award