



August 24, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Cyndie LaMastra, clamastra@thecarolinehouse.org, 203-334-0640

Caroline House receives \$15,000 Grant from Fairfield County's Community Foundation's Fund for Women and Girls

Bridgeport, CT - Caroline House has received a \$15,000 grant from the Fairfield County's Community Foundation's Fund for Women and Girls. The grant will support English as a Second Language (ESL) and life skills education for low-income women.

The Caroline House ESL and life skills program provides free literacy education and support services to low-income women. Women achieve English language skills and self-confidence that empower them to move forward with their education, qualify for livable-wage jobs, and advocate for themselves and their children. In a home-like setting of safety and encouragement, women learn to read, write, and communicate in English. Students proudly become able to read to their children, participate in parent-teacher conferences, fill out job applications, and communicate their needs in the community. Learning English and life skills is a critical starting point for women to improve the standard of living for themselves and their families.

"We are appreciative and honored to partner with Fairfield County's Community Foundation and the Fund for Women and Girls," said Lucy Freeman, Caroline House Executive Director. "As I celebrate my first year at Caroline House, I am excited that we have completed recent structural improvements to our classrooms and program space. We are preparing for the new school year and welcoming women and children as they return to our Caroline House community, ready to take their education in English language and literacy to the next level. This grant will support our students' continuing progress and help mothers and their children achieve skills and confidence that build strong families and strong communities."

Caroline House is celebrating its twenty-second year of providing literacy education services on the East Side of Bridgeport, Connecticut. Founded in 1995 by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Caroline House continues to meet the educational and human needs of economically-disadvantaged families. Programs serve 200 women and children per year. Donations and grants provide course materials, student supplies, classroom and computer equipment and maintenance, and staffing for all programs.

(more)

Fairfield County's Community Foundation promotes philanthropy as a means to create change in Fairfield County, focusing on innovative and collaborative solutions to critical issues impacting the community. Individuals, families, corporations and organizations can establish charitable funds or contribute to existing funds. The Community Foundation is in compliance with the Council on Foundations' national standards, and has awarded \$180 million in grants to nonprofits in Fairfield County and beyond. For more information, visit www.fccfoundation.org.

About Caroline House - Caroline House is a literacy education center located on the East Side of Bridgeport, Connecticut. English as a Second Language, life skills, citizenship, preschool, and children's tutoring programs serve low-income women and children. All are welcome regardless of race, religion, color, creed, sexual orientation or national origin. Classes are held in a safe and welcoming environment to inspire confidence, hope, lifelong learning and achievement. The Caroline House mission is: *To enable women and children to reach the fullness of their potential through education in English language and life skills.* For more information, visit www.thecarolinehouse.org. Caroline House is a sponsored ministry of the [School Sisters of Notre Dame](#).

###