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Regina Terenzio of Norwalk’s Room to Grow Preschool, a Program of Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, Receives 2015 Family Champion Award

Walk the halls of Room to Grow Preschool in Norwalk and you’ll hear laughter and singing. On the walls, colorful paintings, sculptures and drawings hang and in the playground, little legs run as fast as they can in a thrilling game of hide and seek.

Creating a successful pre-school like Room to Grow is incredibly difficult task that can only be achieved through the hard work of dedicated staff and teachers.

Exemplifying that dedication is Regina Terenzio, an administrator at the well-regarded and exceedingly popular pre-school program in Norwalk, which is operated by Catholic Charities of Fairfield County (CCFC). Mrs. Terenzio’s dedication to early childhood education has earned her the **2015 Family Champion Award** presented by the Connecticut Council of Family Service Agencies.

“This is such a diverse and loving place,” said Ms. Terenzio. “It’s amazing to see what these children learn in a course of a year. Many of our 3 year-olds begin school only speaking Spanish and by the end the year they are fluent in English, Spanish and maybe smattering of Polish or another foreign language. It is simply amazing!”

Room to Grow has 83 three and four-year-old students in its program with a waiting list of more than 100 families. Ms. Terenzio has worked with Catholic Charities’s pre-school for 16 years. She assists Director, Nancy Owens in managing the three pre-school sites – two in Norwalk and one in Stamford.

Ms. Terenzio has worked as an educator for 27 years in both Stamford and Norwalk. Her love of art and education inspired her to write, **50 Activities to Encourage Cooperation and Sharing**, an activity book for parents and teachers. She has an Associate Degree in Early Childhood education from Norwalk Community College and a Bachelor Degree from the on-line program, the Charter Oak State College. Mrs. Terenzio lives in Stamford. She is a member of St. Johns Catholic and also attends St. Matthews in Norwalk.

“Regina plays an integral role in supporting staff, families and students so that the school can operate without a glitch,” said Director Nancy Owens, a veteran early childhood educator, who for the past 20 years has managed two Room to Grow Preschools in Norwalk and is opening a third this fall in Stamford. Mrs. Owens was the recipient of the Family Champion Award in 2012.

Room to Grow is located at 208 East Avenue, Norwalk, Ct. 06850. The school is accepting names for wait list. Families must reside in Norwalk.

*Annually the Connecticut Council of Family Service Agencies, Inc. recognizes one Board Member and one staff member from each of our member agencies as **Family Champions**. The Council is a statewide network of 15 independent, non-profit, family service agencies that deliver services to over 150,000 families annually from more than 100 sites located throughout Connecticut.*

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