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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**United Way of Western Connecticut Awards $10,000 to Catholic Charities of Fairfield County – Family Loan and Financial Stability Program of Danbury**

Danbury, CT— United Way of Western Connecticut (UWWC) awards a $10,000 Financial Stability Grant to the Catholic Charities of Fairfield County Family Loan and Financial Stability Program.

The Family Loan and Financial Stability program provides families and individuals with the skills to obtain financial health while teaching them skills to track spending and follow a budget. Families may also qualify for a low interest loan to purchase safe, reliable transportation to work. This enables them to continue to provide income to support their family and remain self-sufficient. Loans may also be used for security deposit funds, car repairs and childcare costs. Loan payback provides credit building while promoting self- sufficiency and advocacy skills.

“This grant from United Way will ensure that local families and individuals in greater Danbury are provided with financial education, life skills support, and available access to low interest loans for safe affordable housing and transportation to work,” said Carolyn Silliman, Program Manager.

Family Loan and Financial Stability Program provides Financial Education and Budget Counseling program to eligible applicants and anyone in need. Financial education prepares clients for self-sufficiency and ensures loan repayment and positive credit building. Loan amounts range from $500 – $10,000 with a 5.5% interest rate, regardless of credit score.

“We are extremely grateful for the United Way’s grant to support this unique program to assist low-income families who don’t qualify for loans from traditional lenders. The United Way of Western Connecticut is a fantastic partner and a leader in providing financial education and assistance via its innovative Prosperi-Key program,” said Mike Donoghue, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of Fairfield County.

To learn more about the Family Loan and Financial Stability Program of Danbury contact Carolyn Silliman, Program Manager, at (203) 743-4412 ext. 242 or email csilliman@ccfc-ct.org.

**ABOUT CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

Catholic Charities of Fairfield County’s mission is to help the needy and most vulnerable of all faiths to permanently improve their lives. Catholic Charities serves Fairfield County with programs that feed the hungry and homebound, shelter the homeless, strengthen families, assist with physical and mental health, and deliver consultation and assistance to immigrants. CCFC provides supportive services that enable families to rise up out of poverty, overcome barriers, and achieve self-sufficiency and independence. For more information about Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, visit [www.ccfairfield.org](http://www.ccfairfield.org). Follow Catholic Charities of Fairfield County on social media: [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CCFAIRFIELD), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/ccfairfielddob), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/catholiccharitiesdob/), [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/catholic-charities-of-fairfield-county), and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeZUdknffBcXnecofXsUMKg/featured).

**ABOUT UNITED WAY OF WESTERN CONNECTICUT**

United Way of Western Connecticut (UWWC) improves the lives of hard-working households called **ALICE®** (**A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed) by mobilizing the resources of local communities to create lasting change. By focusing on the vital building blocks for a good life–Education, Financial Stability, and Health–United Way of Western Connecticut helps residents across Northern Fairfield County, Southern Litchfield County, and the City of Stamford. A United Way report published in September 2020 revealed that in Connecticut, more than 1 in 4 households has earnings above the Federal Poverty Level, but below a basic cost-of-living threshold. Combined with those who are struggling below poverty level, 38% of all households in the state are experiencing financial hardship. UWWC is committed to ensuring that every child enters school ready to learn, every family is financially stable, and every community is healthy and strong. For more information about United Way of Western Connecticut, visit www.uwwesternct.org. Follow United Way of Western Connecticut on social media: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube.