



**DEPARTMENT of CHILDREN and FAMILIES**  
*Making a Difference for Children, Families and Communities*



Susan Hamilton, MSW, JD  
Acting Commissioner

M. Jodi Rell  
Governor

June 5, 2007

**To Whom It May Concern:**

Please accept this letter of support for UPI's application to the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) is excited about the possibility of this service being available to New Haven children and adolescents at risk for, or involved with, Connecticut's juvenile justice system. We believe that engaging children and youths in school and in the community is critical in diverting them from the juvenile and criminal justice systems, and we believe that the UPI life skills program shows strong promise to engage children and youths in schools in New Haven.

In addition to our enthusiastic support of this application, we have set aside \$40,000 for state fiscal year '08 in order to supplement grant funding through the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven if the UPI application is funded.

We believe this program shows great potential as a "promising practice" for at-risk children and adolescents, and we believe that grant funding through the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven will allow UPI to demonstrate the potential that its early efforts have suggested. This opportunity should empower UPI to successfully compete for contracted funds from local and state agencies in the future.

Please feel free to contact me at (860)636-2415 with any questions you may have about DCF's support of UPI's application.

Sincerely,

Anne McIntyre-Lahner  
Program Director

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