



## **Fairfield County Community Foundation Funds Effort to Fight Elder Abuse**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

FAIRFIELD – The Fairfield County Community Foundation awarded a \$15,000 competitive grant to The Jewish Home for the Elderly to continue its innovative Center for Elder Abuse Prevention (The Center). The Center is a community-oriented program to reach out to victims of elder abuse in Fairfield County and prevent future abuse through education. The Fairfield County Community Foundation’s support is matched by grants from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation.

The Center for Elder Abuse Prevention serves individuals over sixty years of age across Fairfield County, and provides an array of services, including arranging for safe, confidential emergency housing appropriate to the specific needs of the client. Collaborating partners include Protective Services for the Elderly, The Southwestern Area Agency on Aging, The Center for Women and Families and Connecticut Legal Services. Referrals of known or suspected cases of abuse are assessed to determine which of The Center’s services best meet the specific physical and psychological needs of the client. Since opening in late 2007, The Center has received nearly 80 referrals.

According to Andrew H. Banoff, the President & CEO of The Jewish Home, “If we can save the life of just one person, then its worth the effort. Support from The Fairfield Community Foundation makes this all a reality”.

The Fairfield County Community Foundation grant ensures that The Center will continue to educate professionals and lay groups about the various types of elder abuse, how the dynamics of abuse may change as one ages, and Connecticut mandated reporting requirements. For example, elder abuse can take many forms, including physical, sexual, and financial, as well as neglect. The abuser could be a family member or close friend on whom the elder is dependent for care. Sometimes an abusive situation arises with no thought of malice but because an individual becomes incapable of caring for his or her spouse. In all of these cases, people are connected with resources to help them.

“Our goal is to remind everyone that abuse can happen at any stage of life and in any setting,” said Laura Snow, the Coordinator of The Center. “We all need to be alert to the signs and symptoms of abuse so we can help those who cannot protect themselves.”

For more information on elder abuse and The Center for Elder Abuse Prevention call its hotline at 203-396-1097.

The Fairfield County Community Foundation promotes the growth of community and regional philanthropy to improve the quality of life throughout Fairfield County. Individuals, families, corporations and organizations can establish charitable funds and contribute to existing funds. The Foundation also provides philanthropic advisory services, and develops and leads initiatives to tackle critical community issues. It is in compliance with the Council on Foundations’ national standards for community foundations. The Foundation has awarded over \$110 million in grants to nonprofits in Fairfield County and beyond. For more information, visit [www.fccfoundation.org](http://www.fccfoundation.org).

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