



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MANSFIELD'S COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CENTER RECEIVES FEDERAL FUNDING

Mansfield, CT – Youngsters at the Community Children's Center will soon be packing up their toys and learning materials so that they can move to a new school. The USDA's Rural Development office announced today that the Community Children's Center will receive a \$300,000 direct loan from the agency in order to build a new facility.

Formed in 1970 by a group of Mansfield parents, the Community Children's Center is a parent owned and operated cooperative which provides pre-school and day care services to children aged 18 months to 5 years. The center is one of the oldest, continuously open and running childcare centers in the area and currently serves approximately 30 children and families out of the lower level of The Unitarian Fellowship of Storrs.

The \$300,000 in funds from USDA Rural Development will go toward the construction of a brand new, 2,400 square foot facility which will be built, subject to town approval, on Mansfield City Road in Storrs.

"We are so fortunate to have found out about the USDA Rural Development Loan Program. From our first contact with them right through the granting of the loan, the USDA team was friendly, professional, informative and very helpful to us. We are thrilled to be able to build a new home and continue providing high quality care and education to the children in our extended community."

"Investing in schools and the education of children is one of the most important and rewarding programs we provide," said State Director of USDA Rural Development David Tuttle, who announced the funding on behalf of President George W. Bush and Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman. "I am enormously pleased to be able to present the Community Children's Center with this funding." The federal dollars are made available to the Community Children's Center through the USDA Rural Development's Community Facility Loan Program.

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Through this program, USDA Rural Development provides loans, grants and loan guarantees for the renovation or construction of public buildings, the purchase of public safety equipment, and other activities in rural areas and communities. The USDA loan to the Community Children's Center is repayable over 40 years at an interest rate of 4.75%.

Congressman Rob Simmons, R-2nd District, said, "The center represents local control at its finest. When it comes to the education of our children the best decisions are generally made by the parents and educators who are closest to them. I am glad that the USDA is providing support so that these committed individuals can continue their good work."

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