

Department of Children and Families
SPOTLIGHT ON WHAT'S RIGHT



Thank you **Comptroller Kevin Lembo** for supporting DCF New Britain with back to school supplies

Governor Lamont visiting the DCF Office in Hartford



Attorney General William Tong speaking at the Wilderness School

"Leon's Legacy"



Her first day of work did not go quite as planned. After being chased by an angry pit bull and jumping over a fence, Tameka Saunders returned to the office with ripped jeans and only one shoe. As her colleagues watched, she was given slippers to wear. Tameka thought, "Are all days like this?"

"You came back," her supervisor said the following morning - and she has for the past 15 years. Tameka credits this supervisor, Linda Fusco, with giving her the "best foundation" to begin her career and is thankful for those experienced workers who mentored and taught her in this most difficult work. It is easy to realize Tameka does not view her time with the Department as a job. It is a calling. "We are drawn here," she says. "My compassion and love make me a good worker." [Read the entire article](#)



Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, Commissioner Dorantes and Governor Ned Lamont



Thank You Senator Witkos for attending the Wilderness School Graduation

siblings Connecting Through Summer Camp



Tucked away on a beautiful 150 acre campus that passes through Andover & Coventry, is a state gem supporting families and children from across Connecticut. While Channel 3 Kids Camp provides year-round programs, the big focus is on summer camp, including swimming, archery, ropes courses, creative arts, digital media, nature education and more.

But beyond its programs, the camp offers something special: reduced overnight camp rates for children from financially struggling and foster families that is affordable while providing kids with unforgettable memories.

[Read the entire article](#)



A Music Video Supporting Foster Care in Connecticut by Annie C.

Hometown Hero's

"Thank you for Michael and Matthew Keating of "Step by Step" a local charity to assist families in need. We are appreciative of their donations of school uniforms, pencils, paper, lunchboxes and other items for our families! Because of their thoughtfulness, many children had a great start to the school year!

You are inspiring!

Wilderness School Transforms Through Stories Of Strength And Hope

When you arrive at the Wilderness School in East Hartland, its remote location, cabin-like structures, and surrounding woods signals that this is different than any other government facility – even one offering a social service to its clients. But the beautiful and unique setting only begins to tell the Wilderness School story.

It takes only a short a conversation with the people who work here to understand that this is not just another "base camp" for an Outward Bound-style program. It is a crossing -- a transformation for both the young people it serves as well as the staff who serve them. The Wilderness School offers youth a chance to test themselves on intensive expeditions filled with challenges: 20 days of hiking, canoeing, rock climbing, and camping along the Appalachian Trail as well as one-to-five day expeditions along the Tunxis Trail or Connecticut River. The journey is far more than a physical one. Each expedition provides the boys and girls an opportunity to place themselves in a new narrative offering a different way of seeing themselves, their strengths and their capabilities.

[Read the entire article](#)

"THANK YOU" to our Legislators

Representative Horn for attending the DCF listening tour in Torrington



Senators Logan and Hartley for attending the Waterbury DCF Listening Tour



Representative Cook for attending the DCF Torrington listening tour



"Thank you"

Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz for providing opening remarks at the Fatherhood Conference!"



Representative Haines in the DCF Middletown listening tour



Senator Needleman in the DCF Middletown listening tour.



Representative Baker & Zoe Gluck from Representative Steve Stafstrom's Office for joining DCF in Bridgeport."



Representatives Michel & Hughes taking part in the Norwalk Listening Tour



Cassandra Grenier's Story Is The Wilderness School Story

If ever a person embodied the Wilderness School story, it is Cassandra Grenier, a 26 year-old Meriden resident, whose passion for the adventure lifestyle almost cost her life. But rather than being a story about danger and loss, this is a story about recovery and hope. Cassandra Grenier's story is the Wilderness School story.

Cassandra grew up in Meriden in a family for whom physical activity was at the center. Her dad was in the Army. But it was her mom, Diane, who instilled a special love of the outdoors. "My mom was always taking us on some kind of hike," she said during an interview in July from a picnic table at the Wilderness School. Summers were filled with kayaking, hiking and rock climbing at different camps.

[Read the entire article](#)

"Our Award Winning Staff"



Karen Keatley
Fatherhood Conference



Yari Ijeh
Fatherhood Conference



Patti Zuccarelli
Fatherhood Conference



Probate C Judge Paul Knierim presenting
Vin Russo with the Daniel F. Caruso
Public Service Award



Tammy Sneed



HART Staff receive award from the
Children's Bureau 2019 Annual
Grantee Meetings in Washington, DC

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