



The Child and Family Guidance Center

For: The Child and Family Guidance Center, 180 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604
Contact: Takeia McAlister (203) 394-6529 x3320, tmcালিস্টার@cfguidance.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Child and Family Guidance Center Intern to Receive JFK Legacy Award



Bridgeport, CT January 31, 2011 – On Tuesday, February 1, 2011 the City of Bridgeport in conjunction with the Institute of Politics at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government and the U.S. Conference of Mayors will recognize the 50th Anniversary of JFK’s inaugural address. Kennedy’s address, in part, challenged Americans to take initiative to become leaders. As a result, The John F. Kennedy Legacy Awards were created to honor young adults who have met JFK’s challenge to move their communities forward by demonstrating achievement in public service and being positive role models for their peer group.

The Child and Family Guidance Center (CFGC) nominated Javier A. Soegaard for the Kennedy Legacy Award. Javier is a 2010 Cum laude Graduate of Notre Dame University and attended Immaculate High School in Danbury, CT where he was class president. Javier initially joined CFGC as a volunteer in the *Nurturing Parenting Group* (NPG) and was particularly skilled at engaging the families and encouraging their active participation. During the summer of 2010 Javier also volunteered with the *Strategic Intervention for High Risk Youth* (SIHRY) program, and demonstrated his leadership abilities in working with young adolescents, which later resulted in an internship with the Center.

A joint collaboration between the Center for Children’s Advocacy, CFGC, Bridgeport Public Schools and the Connecticut Judicial Department created the “Truancy Court Prevention Project” (TCPP) in Bridgeport to intervene with students whose truant behavior put them at risk of a Families with Service Needs (FWSN) petition in Juvenile court. Now, as a Case Manager for TCPP, Javier’s responsibilities include providing fifteen hours of case management, monitoring student attendance and academic achievement, and connecting students to pro-social extracurricular and community activities.

Once Javier learned that he was a recipient of this prestigious award he responded, “I’m so honored and appreciate the agency for nominating me. I really love what I do and enjoy working with the children and their families in Bridgeport.”

“Javier doesn’t just put in his time, he is in each and every day and will do whatever it takes to help “the kids”; he really is a jack of all trades. He provides language interpretation, tutoring, home visits, assistance with applications and advocacy,” says Noraleen Dunphy, Director of Nurturing Families Network Programs at CFGC. “He is a tremendous role-model and is able to relate to, not only the adolescents, but the school staff and administration and the legal and court systems,” says Noraleen. “I can honestly say that Javier A. Soegaard is a young adult who is meeting the challenge to move our community forward. He is most deserving of this award.”

The awards ceremony will take place at Testo’s Restaurant on Tuesday, February 1, 2011. Special guest, Ted Kennedy, Jr. will be speaking on behalf of the Kennedy family in support of these standout young adults who serve as an inspiration to the community.

The Child and Family Guidance Center is a child centered, family focused and community based agency that offers a continuum of quality behavioral health services to children under the age of eighteen and to all members of their families.

To learn more about The Child and Family Guidance Center visit www.cfguidance.org.

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