

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statewide Legal Services of CT receives \$25,000 from Fairfield County's Community Foundation

Statewide Legal Services of CT, headquartered in Wethersfield, received a \$25,000 grant from Fairfield County's Community Foundation to support its Stable Housing for Bridgeport Families Program.

Statewide Legal Services of CT (SLS) in collaboration with Bridgeport Caribe Youth Leaders (BCYL) will assist low individuals living in Bridgeport who are at risk of losing their homes or are having difficulty achieving a healthy living environment. Educational workshops and legal aid consultations will provide individuals and community service organizations with the tools to improve housing stability quality in Bridgeport.

Upon receiving this grant, Janice Chiaretto, Executive Director for SLS, said "This generous grant provides individuals in Bridgeport with critical civil legal aid services during this time of unfamiliar economic hardship. We thank the Fairfield County's Community Foundation for their commitment to our mission of empowering low-income people to address life-changing legal needs, and we are very excited to enter into this new partnership with the Bridgeport Youth Caribe Leaders, in support of their mission and deserving constituents."

Fairfield County's Community Foundation promotes philanthropy as a means to create change in Fairfield County, focusing on innovative and collaborative solutions to critical issues impacting the community. Individuals, families, corporations and organizations can establish charitable funds or contribute to existing funds. The Community Foundation is in compliance with the Council on Foundations' national standards, and has awarded \$180 million in grants to nonprofits in Fairfield County and beyond. For more information, visit www.fccfoundation.org.

Statewide Legal Services of CT, founded in 1995 as the sole federally funded legal aid program in Connecticut, provides free civil legal aid assistance for thousands of low income people, providing many levels of service including triage, advice, representation, referral and community outreach. SLS also specialized in providing plain-language, bi-lingual learning tools and self-help materials in all areas of poverty law. SLS is a member of Connecticut Network for Legal Aid, also founded in 1995. For more information, visit www.slsc.org.

Bridgeport Caribe Youth Leaders, affectionately known as Caribe, established in 2003 is a grassroots youth development organization serving nearly 700 youth yearly from ages 5 to 18 via enrichment programs and activities under our Sports, Education and Community platforms. BCYL's 200 strong volunteers, board of directors, funders and staff members are committed to providing BCYL's youth and their families the environment, resources and inspiration to ensure a great learning experience. For more information, visit www.bcyl.org.