

## House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

### **GREENWICH DELEGATION: HONORED BY FAMILY CENTERS**



GREENWICH – Family Centers has honored State Representatives Livvy R. Floren, R-149<sup>th</sup> District, Lile R. Gibbons, R-150<sup>th</sup> District and Claudia “Dolly” Powers, R- 151<sup>st</sup> District with a National Family Week Advocacy Award for their efforts on behalf of children and families.

Rep. Floren said, “Early childhood education is so important – especially for youngsters in families where English is not the primary language. The Family Centers program helps students arrive at kindergarten prepared to learn. I am a firm supporter of the concept that school readiness program dollars should follow the child. I want to thank Family Centers for this honor.”

The Greenwich delegation was able to secure state funds for the “Dancing Dolphins” school readiness classroom. Earlier this summer, the program was in danger of closing. Family Centers had been in an ongoing fundraising mode to collect at least \$50,000 by the start of the 2007 school year to enable them to fund their school readiness class.

Rep. Powers said, “We’re so fortunate to have Family Centers in our early childhood mix. The “Dancing Dolphins” program educates both children and their families. I am honored to receive this award. I believe this special program is a worth while investment in our community’s children.”

“I am a very strong supporter of early childhood education. Family Centers makes this education possible for 3 and 4 year olds from low income families. I’m pleased the state was willing to add funding to Dancing Dolphins this year so this program can continue,” said Rep. Gibbons.

Family Centers is a private, nonprofit agency that offers education and human services in Fairfield County. More than 1,000 professionals and trained volunteers work together to provide a wide range of responsive, innovative programs. Through Family Centers and their Five Centers of Excellence, more than 20,000 children, adults, families and their communities have received educational services.