



# NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **STAR is Awarded Grant from the Fairfield County Community Foundation**

July 9, 2010: STAR, Inc. Lighting the Way... is pleased to announce that the Fairfield County Community Foundation Board of Directors (FCCF) recently approved a \$10,000 grant from the Sternbach Fund for People with Disabilities to support its respite care program. The grant will be used to provide respite services to families who have a child with a developmental disability.

“In today’s difficult economic times funding for respite for families having a child with a developmental disability is even more critical. We are indeed fortunate and grateful to the Sternbach Fund for People with Disabilities for making these funds available,” commented Katie Banzhaf, Executive Director of STAR will now be able to provide respite scholarships to individuals with disabilities and match individuals in need of respite with a trained pool of well-qualified providers. Respite is an important family preservation and family support service. Planned and crisis respite is a vital part of the continuum of family services intended to reduce family stress, support family stability and minimize the need for out-of-home placements. The grant will be used to address the issue that families are currently underserved or not served at all due to a lack of funding. It is too expensive for many families to secure quality respite care. Therefore, these families are unable to obtain the respite they need.

Funding from the Sternbach Fund for People with Disabilities will also enable STAR to serve individuals with disabilities that are currently ineligible for services of the Connecticut Department of Developmental Services and therefore cannot access these services. The funding will also be used to address those individuals currently on the waiting list for services.

STAR, Inc., Lighting the Way is a not-for-profit organization serving individuals of all ages with developmental disabilities, as well as providing support services to their families. We create opportunities for individuals to live full lives with independence, freedom of choice and personal growth by providing support, services and advocacy. We inform and encourage the community to recognize and appreciate the value of all

individuals. For additional information contact Linda Snell, Director of Family Support at [lsnell@starinonline.com](mailto:lsnell@starinonline.com) or call (203) 354-0142. visit STAR's website at [www.starinc-lightingtheway.org](http://www.starinc-lightingtheway.org)

The Fairfield County Community Foundation promotes the growth of community and regional philanthropy to improve the quality of life throughout Fairfield County. Individuals, families, corporations and organizations can establish charitable funds and contribute to existing funds. The Foundation also provides philanthropic advisory services and develops and leads initiatives to tackle critical community issues. It is in compliance with the Council on Foundations' national standards for community foundations. The Foundation has awarded over \$110 million in grants to nonprofits in Fairfield County and beyond. For more information, visit [www.fccfoundation.org](http://www.fccfoundation.org).

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