

Thanks to Community Fund, kids have a chance

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To the Editor: How do you say "Happy Birthday" to a homeless child? How do you explain family and love to an abused child?

They're empty words, if you are a child struggling with abuse and neglect.

Its hard to believe that a parent could harm or risk the life of a child. Yet, it is the stark truth and it happens in every **community** throughout Fairfield County.

It is clearly unacceptable for any child to live with maltreatment.

With the commitment of the **Community Fund** of Darien, Kids in Crisis gives children a chance to recover from the trauma in their young lives - to smile again - and to wake up knowing they are safe.

Thanks to the **Community Fund** of Darien thousands of families and children turn to Kids in Crisis each year. They come to us for counseling during difficult times, for help in the midst of a crisis, for emergency shelter when home is no longer safe.

Because of the **Community Fund** of Darien, Kids in Crisis can give struggling children a chance to heal. Their support makes it possible for Kids in Crisis to provide in-depth psychological support, medical care, educational services and a loving environment that allows boys and girls to hope for a better life and a brighter future.

Sadly, the numbers of children in dangerous situations continue to grow. Kids in Crisis is the only place in Connecticut where children and families can get such help around the clock, free of charge. Together, the **Community Fund** of Darien and Kids in Crisis provide children with counselors to talk with, a temporary home when they need one; food, clothing and medical care while they are here; and services to support them once they leave.

Thank you to the wonderful staff, donors and volunteers of the **Community Fund** of Darien for everything you do for the children and families in Darien. Every one of us engaged in this work is, of course, hopeful that one day all children will be safe and sound in their homes but until that time we will be here for any child in crisis.

Shari L. Shapiro Executive Director Kids in Crisis