

To the Editor:

For many years, the United Way has been a strong supporter of the Child Guidance Center of Southern Connecticut (CGC), an area mental health resource for children and teens. On behalf of my colleagues, I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude and deep appreciation for the emphasis the United Way places on children's welfare and, in particular, mental health services.

As with physical health, early identification and intervention is crucial to the successful resolution of mental health problems and reducing potential long term consequences when difficulties arise. When we do not have sufficient means to invest in prevention and services, we risk that troubled children will not get the help they need. Funding from the United Way makes our work possible, helping us to reach more than 2,000 children a year. Moreover, we rely on many of the other United Way supported agencies, community partners such as Sexual Assault Crisis Center, Boys and Girls Club, Person-2-Person, etc., to meet a range of emergency and ongoing needs essential to the positive functioning of families and the healthy development of children in our community.

Finally, our affiliation with the United Way is a seal of approval from a trusted organization. It ensures the public that the CGC is held to high standards of excellence in program and fiscal management and that donors' investments are allocated appropriately based on current community needs.

We are committed to responding to the community's growing need for children's mental health services and are profoundly grateful for the generous support United Way has provided to help us fulfill our mission to reduce emotional suffering and dysfunctional behavior, helping each child achieve optimal potential.

Sincerely,
Sherry Perlstein, MSW
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