



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Community Foundation Invests in Early Childhood Leadership with Gesell Institute**

**New Haven, CT (August 24, 2010)** – The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven recently awarded \$12,500 in grants to New Haven based non-profit Gesell Institute of Human Development in support of the Institute’s Early Childhood Leadership Conference being held on October 15, 2010 at the Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale. A \$10,000 responsive grant most recently awarded provides under-writing support for the LEAD (Learn, Educate, Advocate, Do!) conference, which involves world-renowned figures in child development and leaders in education reform. Additionally, a \$2,500 sponsorship awarded in the spring has been used to help defray the costs of the Institute’s campaign to announce this important event to as many professionals as possible, locally and across the nation.

The overarching conference goal is to reintroduce and highlight the important role of child development in education, learning, and long-term school success. The conference will feature evidence-based curriculum models for success and produce tangible outcomes that will impact the future of education in New Haven and across the country. Last year, advertising for the conference began by mailing a “Save-the Date” postcard to as many as 50,000 school officials and policy makers. A subsequent mailing this spring of the registration brochure has been sent to a similar number.

The conference has been designed to advance the current local and national discussion on education reform and to stimulate concrete change in early childhood education policy and practice, in New Haven and beyond. Dr. Marcy Guddemi, Gesell Institute Executive Director, is honored and thankful for the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven’s involvement and

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contribution. “It is with pride that we bring this high-impact conference to the City of New Haven when New Haven Public Schools are in the midst of a major reform effort. A partnership with the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven will go far in leveraging other funds to ensure that the caliber and quality of LEAD is above reproach and positioned to make a real difference both locally and nationally.” Will Ginsberg, President and CEO of The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, agrees, stating, “The work of the Gesell Institute to elevate the importance of early childhood education is invaluable to our community. If we are to close the achievement gap, our children need to be fully prepared for their educational experience and ready to succeed.” Supporting local programs that provide quality early childhood education and learning opportunities has been a priority for The Community Foundation over many years.

Since 1928, donors to The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven have built the community’s endowment currently valued at more than \$280 million. It is among the oldest and largest of more than 700 community foundations in the United States and remains the largest grantmaker in a region of twenty towns located in the heart of South Central Connecticut. Last year, the Foundation’s Board of Directors distributed more than \$14 million in grants from hundreds of different named charitable funds, supporting a wide range of programs and projects. For more information about The Community Foundation visit [www.Great Foundation for Greater New Haven .org](http://www.Great Foundation for Greater New Haven .org).

Gesell Institute of Human Development is an independent non-profit organization associated with how children grow and learn since 1950. The work of Arnold Gesell, PhD, MD, (1888-1961), founding Director of the Yale Child Study Center in 1911 and the Institute’s namesake, had a profound influence on the field of child development. Based on Gesell’s pioneering work documenting infant and child growth and development during the first half of the century, Gesell programs and publications help parents and educators understand the ages and stages of childhood. Professional development and parent workshops cover a broad range of topics regarding child behavior, healthy growth and development, and positive learning outcomes. For additional information and resources, visit [www.gesellinstitute.org](http://www.gesellinstitute.org). For conference details and registration, visit [www.gesellinstitute.org/events](http://www.gesellinstitute.org/events). Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

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