

## Champions of Change – Five Outstanding Organizations

December 19, 2012 - As the end of 2012 approaches, CTLatinoNews.com is looking ahead to 2013 as a year when we can all increase our efforts to work together to affect change in so many arenas. While this year ends with such sorrow for so many families in Newtown, we want to also focus on the good and inspiring deeds of so many in our state that have taken place daily this past year, impacting us all in a positive way.

To recognize these deeds within the Latino community, we launched a series this week called “Champions of Change” that highlights people and organizations that have worked tirelessly to affect change for Latinos and non-Latinos in Connecticut. They have accomplished change through various means, some through their professional work, others by generously volunteering their time, working for change through policy implementation or by using the legal system.

Our “Champions of Change” were selected by our editorial team and represent many sectors that include: health, business, politics, media, art and law. We present them to you in five categories – Top Five, Five Young Latinos Already Making a Difference, Five Non-Profit Organizations, Five Latinos in Media & Arts and the Most Visible Latino. Today we highlight Connecticut’s Top Five Organizations that are “Champions of Change”: Progreso Latino Fund, Latino Endowment Fund, Hartford Puerto Rican Parade, Yale Law Clinic and Children’s Law Center.

### Center for Children’s Advocacy



The Center for Children’s Advocacy’s attorneys represent children who have been abused and neglected. They work to provide protection and safety for every child they represent. The Center operates on the belief that children in the care of the state’s child welfare system should be in a family-like setting whenever possible, have access to a consistent and effective education, and receive quality health and mental health care.

The Hartford based legal center, which also has offices in Bridgeport, was selected as a “Champion for Change” because 33 percent of children in foster care in Connecticut are Latino, which is a greater percentage than whites or blacks.

The Center’s attorneys represent children and youth in Connecticut’s poorest cities, addressing factors that interfere with their ability to succeed in school. They meet with students at on-site school and hospital legal clinics, and at community after-school programs, youth shelters and treatment facilities. They help youth with their educational rights, guardianship and housing issues, domestic and dating violence, access to health care and mental health care, and access to financial aid for college.

Attorneys from the Center, which was founded in 1997, also partner with doctors in low-income communities to improve children’s access to appropriate health care. With offices on-site at hospitals and community health facilities, the attorneys represent children to address issues such as substandard housing, inadequate income and benefits, disability rights, and access to education and health care.

Daily, without a large budget, the attorneys for the Center of Children’s Advocacy are “Champions of Change” for children who have no one else to speak up for them.