



# From Our House to Yours

Caroline House News  
Fall/Winter 2018

## Caroline House Mission

*To enable women  
and children  
to reach the fullness  
of their potential  
through education  
in English language  
and life skills.*

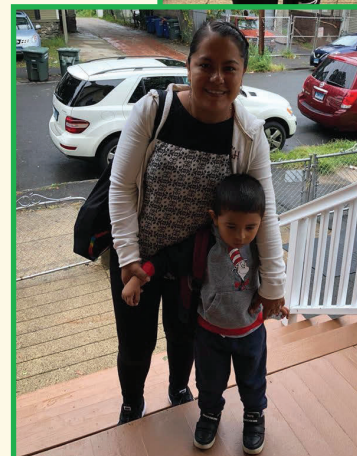


*Founded and sponsored by  
the  
School Sisters  
of Notre Dame*

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Bridgeport, CT 06608

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[www.thecarolinehouse.org](http://www.thecarolinehouse.org)



## Embracing a New School Year

**T**he excitement was in the air as Caroline House welcomed new and returning students for the first day of school!

*“Caroline House is my second home because the people here welcome me with open arms.”  
~ Alma*

### ***This year at Caroline House:***

- ◆ **Women** will achieve English language and literacy skills that **empower** them to be **contributing and confident** members of their families and communities.
- ◆ **Mothers** will become able to **read to their children, help them with homework, and communicate with their teachers and doctors.**

- ◆ **Preschoolers** will achieve school-readiness skills so that they are ready to **thrive in kindergarten.**
- ◆ **Children** who are struggling to read in English will receive tutoring and become able to proudly say, **“I can read!”**

## Preschool Learning Is Better Together!

Each fall brings a new group of children as well as returning students. **We are excited for another year of lots of learning through play!**

Out of 17 preschoolers this year, eight of the children are two years old. The two-year-old children are spirited and full of wonder. Their attention span is also shorter than that of the three- and four-year-old children! Keeping our two-year-olds engaged calls for a wide variety of indoor and outdoor activities.

After the first weeks of school, all the children are settled in, having discovered our classroom toys, games, blocks, puzzles, books, and our great backyard with trikes and play equipment.



**Preschool friends play together in our new playhouse built by Staples High School student Jake McGillion-Moore as part of his Eagle Scout project. Thank you, Jake!**



**The children enjoy story time with Louise Kaczmarek and wonder what *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* will eat next!**

A special thank you for the kind wishes and gifts to Caroline House made in honor of **Jean Fredricks' 18th anniversary as Preschool Director.**

We welcome back volunteers **Alexis Yates** (8 years with us!), **Concetta Falotico** (our "chef extraordinaire" who cooks lunch for the children each week), **Louise Kaczmarek** (joining us after helping in the summer program), and three energetic students from **Sacred Heart University**. We are also thrilled to have two Caroline House ESL graduates back as volunteers!

Cherished volunteer **Lyndy Toole** brings her guitar each week for music, movement, and fun. In September, Lyndy led the children in singing "Getting to Know You" - which sums up our new year! **We invite you to visit and have lunch... we love company!**

### Caroline House Tour Tuesdays

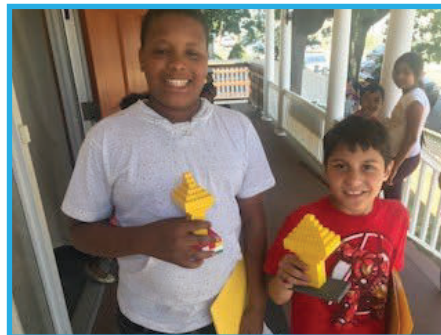
- \* Every Tuesday Caroline House offers tours of our center between 9:30 AM and 12:00 PM.
- \* See our programs in action! Learn about the many ways you can support the ministry of Caroline House.
- \* To schedule your visit, contact Christine Paine at (203) 334-0640 or cpaine@thecarolinehouse.org



## Summer Program Makes a Splash

Over 90 energetic high school, college, and adult volunteers made our 3-week summer program memorable for more than 55 children. From working on reading and math skills, to designing mazes, to learning to code with Lego storyboards and tablets, summer was full of learning, friends, and fun!

Special thanks to the **Westport and Redding chapters of the National Charity League** and the **Westport Public Library** for leading the children through creative and scientific projects. **We are excited to continue our collaboration with the Westport Library in the 2018-2019 after-school program.**



## Join Our After-School Tutoring Team

Teens and adults – are you looking to make a difference in a young person’s life?



After-School Tutoring runs on Monday and Wednesday afternoons for the 2018-2019 school year. We would love to have YOU join us.

We guarantee that you and the children you tutor will benefit from the experience!

Please email **Takina Shafer** at [tshafer@thecarolinehouse.org](mailto:tshafer@thecarolinehouse.org) if you are interested in being a volunteer tutor or to learn more.

### Covenanting of SSND Associates

Members of the SSND community gathered on September 29 at Villa Notre Dame to celebrate the covenanting of Lucy Freeman and two others as new SSND Associates. Associates embrace and share the charm of the SSNDs, living the spirit and mission of support and unity.



(L to R) Front row: **Maureen Fleming, SSND, Jean Fredricks, Lucy Freeman.** Back row: **Suzy Blackburn, Maria Iannuccillo, SSND.**

### Measuring Our Impact

Thanks to generous donors and grantors, Caroline House continues to increase the capacity and quality of our programs to give women and children the tools they need to succeed.

Testing is one way we measure impact. Assessments measure and monitor student improvement over time. This year we have transitioned from paper to computer testing for ESL students. The online system is helping teachers target instruction to the needs of each student.



**New online testing is an investment in student outcomes.**

**Caroline House**

**Executive Director / President of the Corporation**  
Lucy Freeman

**Members of the Corporation**

- Charmaine Krohe, SSND, Chair
- Deborah Cerullo, SSND
- Jane Forni, SSND / Liaison to Caroline House
- Maria Iannuccillo, SSND
- Sharon Kanis, SSND
- Celeste Reinhart, SSND

**Board of Directors**

- Mary Fitzgerald, SSND, Th.D., Chair
- Mary Ann Barney, Secretary
- Valeria Belanger, SSND
- Lucy Freeman, Ex-officio
- John Garvey
- Chris Greer
- Kathleen Johansen-Stagg
- George Judd
- Craig Kennedy
- John McKeon
- Julie Mughal
- Joseph Purcell
- Adrian Rebollo
- Janned Serrano
- Wendy Woolf
- Alexis Yates
- M. John Vianney Zullo, SSND

**Honorary Members**

- Rev. Charles Allen, S.J.
- Charles F. Chiusano
- Virginia A. Day
- Maureen Fleming, SSND
- Sheila Keenan
- Robert K. Marzik, Esq.
- Nancy Matthews
- Hon. T.R. Rowe
- Hon. James Stapleton
- Thomas Tortora
- Suzanne Turner

**Caroline House Staff**

- Maria DiPiero, Bookkeeper
- Jean Fredricks, Preschool Director
- Lucy Freeman, Executive Director
- Betty King, CND, ESL Teacher
- Cyndie LaMastra, Grants & Business Manager
- Christine Paine, Development Director
- Joan A. Pollack, Program Assistant
- Sherry Portnoy, ESL Teacher
- Helen Ramos-Paiz, Development Associate
- Takina Shafer, ESL Teacher
- Kate Whalen, SSND, ESL Teacher

*Greetings from Executive Director Lucy Freeman*

*Dear Friends,*

We are off to a great start to the school year at Caroline House! Classes are filling up, and students have arrived full of energy and ready to learn.

This year we have incorporated a nationally-recognized online testing system to assess and certify students' English language skills. The online system helps to

ensure accurate placement of new students and will be used to measure learning progress of all ESL students throughout the year.

We welcome two new teachers at Caroline House. **Sherry Portnoy** holds a master's degree in elementary education and has extensive experience in primary education. **Takina Shafer** holds a bachelor of arts degree in allied health and is currently studying for her master's degree in global development and peace. We are delighted to have Sherry and Takina on our teaching team!

We continue to focus our efforts on educating students beyond the classroom, providing them with resources and opportunities that empower them to achieve their educational goals and realize their dreams of a better life. **All of this is possible because you believe in our mission and generously provide the resources our students need to develop their skills and believe in themselves.**

*Lucy Freeman*  
*Executive Director*



**Lucy Freeman welcomes teachers Takina Shafer (left) and Sherry Portnoy (right).**



**Wine Tasting to Benefit Caroline House**

**Friday, November 16, 2018  
The Penfield Pavilion, Fairfield**

Tickets on sale now at: [www.thecarolinehouse.org](http://www.thecarolinehouse.org)

**Save the Date! Friday, April 5, 2019**

*Starry Night Gala*

**The Inn at Longshore, Westport**

