



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SPEF receives \$10,000 grant from the United Way of Western Connecticut
COVID-19 Resiliency Grant program**

STAMFORD, CT – June 29, 2021 – The Stamford Public Education Foundation (SPEF) today announced it has been awarded \$10,000 from the **United Way of Western Connecticut** (UWWC) COVID-19 Resiliency Grant program. Resiliency grants are part of UWWC’s region-wide effort to alleviate the economic hardships the pandemic has brought upon the community. Recipients who are awarded this grant are considered integral members of their community because they have provided strength and unity, especially during times of difficulty such as the pandemic.

SPEF will use this funding to support its **Summer Start** Early Learning program. Summer Start is a free, five-week, half-day program for children who are entering Stamford Public Schools and have not had a complete preschool or kindergarten experience during the 2020-21 school year. Since March 2020, many children experienced challenges and gaps in their learning as a result of COVID-19. SPEF’s goal is to ensure every child enters the school system feeling prepared and confident for the best learning opportunity.

United Way of Western Connecticut improves the lives of hard-working, struggling households by mobilizing the resources of local communities to create lasting change. United Way helps residents across Northern Fairfield County, Southern Litchfield County, and the City of Stamford by focusing on the vital building blocks for a good life: education, financial stability, and health. It is particularly focused on a population identified as **ALICE®** (**A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed). By leveraging the collective power of the community, we are focused on creating an environment where individuals and families are self-sufficient and can achieve

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financial independence. For more information about United Way of Western Connecticut, please visit: www.uwwesternct.org. Like us on [Facebook](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#). Follow us on [Instagram](#). Watch us on [YouTube](#).

About SPEF: Founded in 1996, the mission of the Stamford Public Education Foundation (SPEF) is to deliver educational programs and resources that elevate student, educator, and parent success by bridging the gap between needs in the Stamford Public Schools and resources in our community. The Foundation strives to enable each and every student in the Stamford Public Schools to graduate high school and enter college, career training, or fulltime employment ready to succeed. For further information, visit www.spefct.org.

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