



**PRESS RELEASE
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For More Information Contact:
Rachel Alonso-Mendoza, 203.965.7733
ralonso@spefct.org

**Here-to-Help Family Engagement Network Connects 726 Stamford Families
with Resources Critical to Student Achievement**

*Childcare, tutoring, technology support, and food among most requested needs since
network's launch in November 2020*

STAMFORD, CT – November 3, 2021 – A family of four moved to Stamford because mom received a job offer, and their future looked promising. However, due to COVID-19, mom eventually lost her job, leaving the family struggling for help and unaware of the community resources available to them in their new city. ***Here-to-Help*** network coordinators connected with the family and provided them with groceries, childcare, and technology support so that the children could engage in remote learning.

In November 2020, while educational models were shifting between hybrid and virtual learning, the Stamford Public Education Foundation launched its *Here-to-Help* family engagement network to provide families like the Sandoval family with a centralized hub for easy access to resources and support services needed for their students to succeed and thrive. Families can reach out to bilingual *Here-to-Help* program coordinators who are available by phone, email, text, or WhatsApp and voice their concerns and issues. SPEF coordinators then connect them to the community-based and school-based resources needed to address their struggle.

The *Here-to-Help* network has also been instrumental in assisting chronically absent Stamford Public Schools students with re-engaging in classroom learning by reaching out, identifying barriers to education, and delivering solutions to families such as childcare support, assistance with technology, tutoring, communication with a child's school, translation services, and much more.

To date more than 700 families have been connected through *Here-to-Help* to critical resources and support services, with childcare, tutoring, technology support, and food among the most requested. Despite students being back in the classroom, *Here-to-Help* continues to be a unique and important service for the Stamford community and SPEF encourages families to contact a Here-to-Help Program Coordinator, share their issues, concerns, and needs, and learn about the programs and resources that may be available to them. For more information, visit www.spefct.org/here2help.

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 spefct.org.

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