

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Inspirica Inc. Wins Inaugural Impact Fairfield County Grant**

**STAMFORD, CT – Inspirica Inc. has been selected as the inaugural recipient of Impact Fairfield County's \$100,000 award. The grant will support Inspirica's innovative Early Childhood and Parenting Program.**

Founded by Greenwich residents Wendy Block and Vicki Craver, Impact Fairfield County's goal is to provide high-impact grants that reach underserved populations and unmet needs in the area. The \$100,000 award was given a rigorous grants review process and vote by the full membership of IMPACT Fairfield County. More than 64 organizations submitted applications this year, with only three making it to the finals, which included presentations at the organization's annual meeting on May 11, 2016 at the Millbrook Club in Greenwich.



*From left to right: Vicki Craver, Impact Fairfield County Co-Founder, Barbara McLaughlin, Director of Early Childhood and Parenting Program, Patty Roberts, Inspirica Board Chair, Jason T. Shaplen, Inspirica CEO, Measi O'Rourke, President & Executive Director of Saint Joseph Parenting Center, and Wendy Block, Impact Fairfield County Co-Founder*  
Photo Credit: Impact Fairfield County

“It is a great honor to have Impact Fairfield County recognize the valuable impact our Early Childhood and Parenting program makes on the lives of the homeless children and parents in our care” said Jason Shaplen, CEO of Inspirica. “Our goal is to make sure that homeless children do not grow up to become adults who are homeless. We are especially pleased to be the inaugural winners of this prestigious award.”

The statistics surrounding homeless children are staggering. By age three, they have heard 30 million fewer words than their peers. They are sick 4x more often than children

who are not homeless, have 4x the rate of developmental problems, 3x the rate of emotional and behavioral problems, and 2x the rate of learning disabilities. The impact on future learning and success is profound.

Inspirica's Early Childhood and Parenting Program (ECP) combines crucial early childhood learning, development, and a pre-literacy program for homeless children ages 0-5 to ensure that children residing in the organization's shelters develop in line with, if not ahead of, their peers. The children participate in verbal and written activities, exploration, music, art, science, stories and songs, all designed to promote school readiness and development. The program also offers essential parenting skills classes whose curricula covers areas such as socialization, communication, child development, and advocating for children.

In collaboration with Childcare Learning Centers (CLC) and Saint Joseph Parenting Center (SJPC), the program draws on the expertise of two leaders in the fields of early childhood education and parenting. "It's a new model of collaboration that is extremely powerful and which we hope will be duplicated further afield" said Shaplen, adding that "this grant will quite literally change lives of children ages 0-5, allowing them to permanently break the cycle of homelessness."

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### **About Impact Fairfield County**

Impact Fairfield County's mission is to unite women in our community in a common cause. The goal is to collectively raise funds to support the unmet needs in Fairfield County, CT, as well as raise the profile of deserving but lesser known organizations. Together they provide large, transformational grants each year to local non-profits.

Impact Fairfield County's goal for its membership is to provide members with the opportunity to engage in local philanthropy on a broader and deeper level than they could as individuals. For more information visit [www.impactffc.org](http://www.impactffc.org)

### **About Inspirica**

Inspirica's mission is to break the cycle of homelessness by helping people achieve – and maintain – permanent housing and stability in their lives. For more information visit [www.InspiricaCT.org](http://www.InspiricaCT.org)

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