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Branford Children Celebrate Kindness and Compassion

April 23rd, 2018 – The Branford Early Childhood Collaborative (BECC) is pleased to announce that in celebration of NAEYC’s Week of the Young Child™, we are holding our annual town-wide literacy event, One Book One Town. This year’s book is *The Kindness Quilt* by local author, Nancy Elizabeth Wallace providing inspiration for the Preschool Art Walk now hanging in the merchant windows of downtown Branford and exploring what kindness look like through the eyes of children, now through April 29th.

Additionally, in the spirit of creating understanding and compassion for others, BECC is hosting a free movie screening of the award-winning documentary film, *Resilience*, a KPJR film directed by James Redford on Tuesday April 24th from 6pm to 8pm at the Branford Fire House. Following the film screening, community members will participate in a Community Conversation. *Resilience* is a one-hour film chronicling the beginnings of a national movement to prevent childhood trauma, treat toxic stress, and greatly improve the health of future generations. The post-film discussion will explore how we as a community can begin to implement trauma-informed practices that support the development of resilience in children as a natural counter-weight to the effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE’s). The more resilient a child is, the more likely they are to deal with negative situations in a healthy way that won’t have prolonged and unfavorable health outcomes.

“Resilience is not something we are born with, but can be learned, practiced and built over time, says Robin Comey, Executive Director of BECC.” “Exposure to negative situations early in a child’s development affects the structure and function of their growing brains which can lead to learning and behavior problems.” “This film shows how communities are improving outcomes dramatically by building the capabilities of adults and children through an intergenerational approach.”

To learn more, become a supporter or be a participant in any of the activities, please contact Robin Comey, Executive Director of the Branford Early Childhood Collaborative at 203-415-5237 or email Branford.becc@gmail.com. Limited seating is available for the movie screening and RSVP’s are required at the email, phone or at www.branfordbecc.org.

BECC is committed to ensuring that all Branford children and families are afforded the opportunity to develop a sound foundation for learning in the critical early years. They continue to provide leadership in their community and among their state-wide partners, on issues of importance to the education, health and care of young children in Branford.

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