

NEW  
CONFERENCE  
FORMAT!

PARENT  
KNOWLEDGE! • WISDOM! • PASSION!

## Discovery 2014 Stone Soup



## PARENT VOICES: From Listening to Action!

Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2014

Place: Crowne Plaza, Cromwell CT

Registration will begin September 22nd and close October 12th

## FEATURING: Parents sharing their stories

Featuring Reflections from Key Listeners:

**Myra Jones-Taylor**, Commissioner, Office of Early Childhood

**Lisa Graustein**, Trustee, William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund



*Honoring voices of our community,  
illuminating true stories, and  
embodying spontaneity since 1990!*

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

Featured performance by Hudson River Playback Theatre offers an innovative opportunity for dialogue and discovery through the telling and enactment of true stories. Audience members are invited to share aspects of their varied experiences as parents, advocates, leaders, and recipients. Performers listen deeply, then co-create spontaneous reflections of real life with movement, imagery, spoken word, and music. Hudson River Playback Theatre's respectful, creative process honors divergent voices, illuminates commonalities, and weaves a tapestry of shared vision in action.

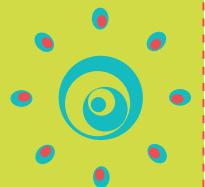


## EXCITING NEW FEATURES FOR 2014!

- The conference is designed to be a day of learning through dialogue.
- The opening plenary will be set up "theater-style" to facilitate listening, watching and sharing. Arrive early (7:45) for breakfast, as no food will be allowed into the opening plenary.
- There will be an opportunity for Affinity Group conversations about parent voice. You will be asked to identify an Affinity Group when you register.
- Lunch will be served family-style to provide more time for table talk and reflection.
- Concurrent sessions will be moderated by conversation coaches to encourage parent voice in the dialogue.

PARENTS  
AS  
PARTNERS

- Parents helped design the Conference.
- Parents will lead and be involved in the concurrent sessions.
- Parents generated tips on "Positive Ways to Engage Parents."
- Parents participated in the selection of "Parents-as-Partners Champions."



Presented by the Stone Soup Planning Committee and the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund.



# The All-New 2014 Stone Soup Conference

## PARENT VOICES: FROM LISTENING TO ACTION!

### Conference Program

7:45 – 8:30

#### **Registration & Continental Breakfast**

Please arrive early to allow time for breakfast, as there will be no tables in the plenary.

8:30 – 8:45

#### **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS *NEW! THEATER-STYLE SEATING***

**David Addams, Executive Director, William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund**, will provide opening remarks and introduce our featured guests and plenary presenters.

8:45 – 10:00

#### **PLENARY SESSION**

Three parents will tell their stories about trying to work with various systems (e.g. school districts, early care). The stories will make visible the challenges and barriers parents encounter. Translation will be provided for presenters and participants.

**Hudson River Playback Theatre** will co-create reflections of the parent stories through movement, imagery, words and music and invite audience members to share their varied experiences to allow different perspectives to become visible.

10:15 – 11:00

#### **AFFINITY BREAKOUT GROUPS**

Participants will be pre-assigned to affinity groups based on their registration identification. Each group will have a moderated conversation focused on what you are doing to support parent voice and how you can help remove barriers that diminish parent voice.

11:15 – 12:15

#### **CONCURRENT LEARNING THROUGH DIALOGUE SESSIONS**

Sessions are designed to provide participants with tools and ideas to engage parents in community-wide approaches by: building parent/school/community partnerships; creating parent-to-parent outreach; supporting grassroots parent-led advocacy; engaging multiple sectors to support children's health development in the early years and strengthening families.

12:30 – 1:15

#### **LUNCH – Family Style**

12:45

#### **Reflections from Key Listeners followed by Table Talks**

**Myra Jones-Taylor, Commissioner, Office of Early Childhood**

**Lisa Graustein, Trustee, William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund**

The Key Listeners will reflect back to the audience what they heard in the parent stories and the themes that were captured throughout day by the themers.

Participants at each table will reflect and discuss what they heard and learned, in terms what might or might not work in their community and why.

1:30 – 2:30

#### **CONCURRENT LEARNING THROUGH DIALOGUE SESSIONS**

Repeat of morning sessions.

2:45 – 3:00

#### **CLOSING SESSION**

##### **Celebrating “Champions for Parents-as-Partners”**

##### **Closing Comments**

David Addams will present awards to the “Champions” and highlight **future directions** of the Stone Soup Conference and the Memorial Fund.