









Great things are happening at New Haven Public Schools

January 1, 2020 – January 10, 2020

We believe that all kids can learn, achieve, and rise to a bright future. Our purpose is to provide an outstanding education that extends beyond graduation and prepares our students to be the next generation of leaders, innovators and problem-solver.

- New Haven Hispanic Firefighters bring special guests to Truman School
- Keep Moving Forward, Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Conference
- Great News From Troup School
- Teen Follows Mom's College Dream
- New Haven Academy Student and NHPS Students participate in the Mayor's Inauguration
- Wilbur Cross High School Special Education teacher, Ursula Pendziwater, name East Haven's Person of the Week
- State Regional Concert at Wilbur Cross
- Troup's Community Resource Fair

New Haven Hispanic Firefighters bring special guests to Truman School in celebration of Three Kings Day!

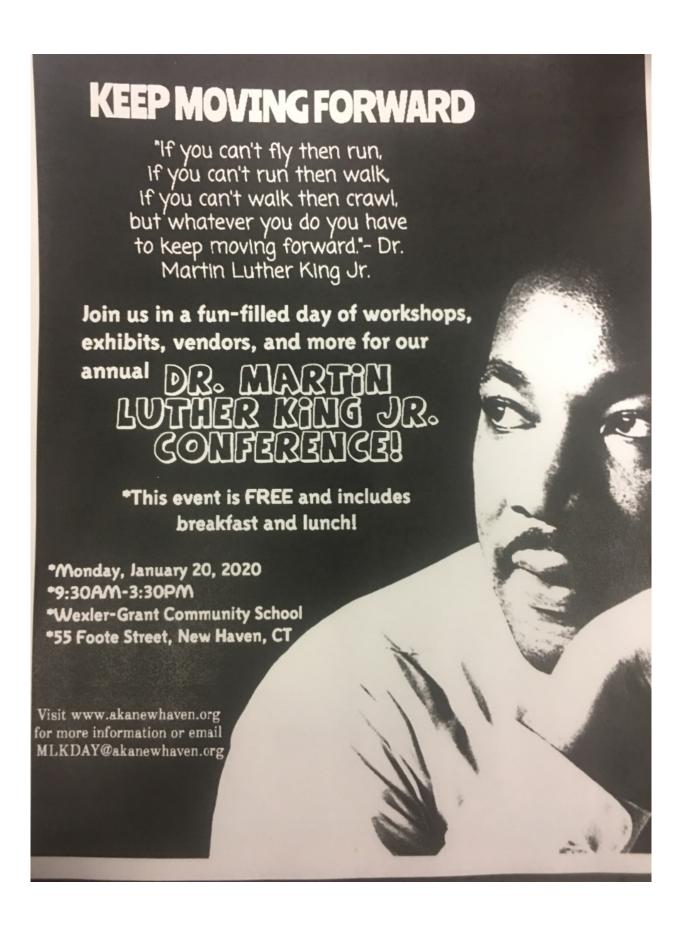


On January 9, 2020 Rafael Zayas and New Haven Hispanic Firefighters brought the Three Kings to Truman School to celebrate this holiday. The three kings along with the firefighters and many community leaders passed out gifts to students in grades Pre-K to fifth grade. The students were very excited to receive presents! The New Haven Hispanic Firefighters have been involved with several Truman School activities over

the years. Students visit the firehouse to learn about fire safety and we can always count on the firefighters to participate in read aloud days. We are very thankful for their support.







Great News from Troup School



Our World Inc. received an award from the Flight Night event!!! Read below. Our World Inc. currently provide programming at Troup School through the 21st Century Program. Our World Director, Mr. Joseph Inigo (second from right)

The Flight Night event hosted by social business incubator reSET gave six business owners an opportunity to hone their sales pitch for new or expanding missions, and small prizes went to childhood education provider Music Note Kids and to Tip\$, a platform that will provide tips directly to hotel room service workers.



SHAWN R. BEALS / CTNEWSJUNKIE

Andrew Slaiby, owner of Tip\$, was one of two businesses to receive small prizes for their business pitches at the reSET Flight Night Nov. 21

About reSET

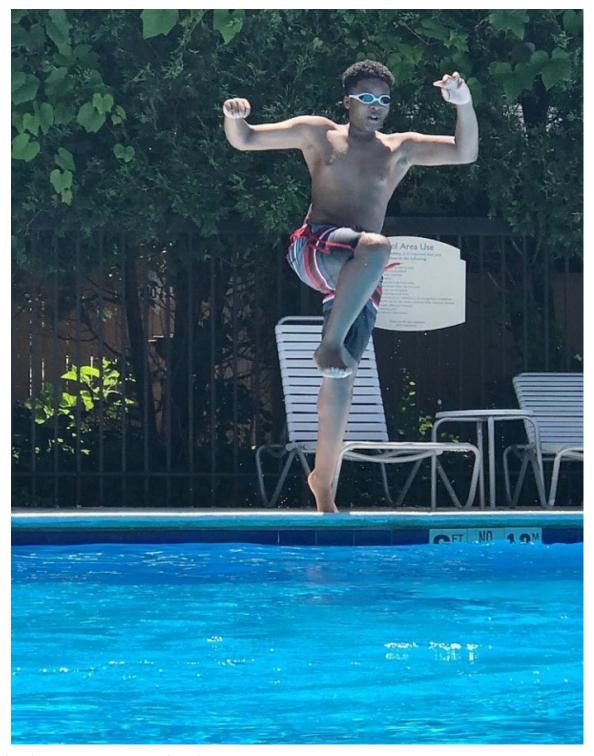
reSET is a nonprofit organization whose mission is advancing the social enterprise sector. reSET serves specializes in social enterprise — impact driven business with a double or triple bottom line. In addition to providing coworking space, accelerator and mentoring programs, reSET aims to inspire innovation and community collaboration, and to support entrepreneurs in creating market-based solutions to community challenges. reSET's goal is to meet entrepreneurs wherever they are in their trajectory and to help them take their businesses to the next level. www.reSETCo.org

Teen Follows Mom's College Dream

by EMILY HAYS | Jan 10, 2020 7:36 am

(2) Comments | Post a Comment | E-mail the Author

Posted to: Higher Ed, Schools



Christopher Suggs, Morgan State-bound.

Christopher Suggs' mom interrupted her college dream to give birth to him and raise him with the attention he deserved.

Seventeen years later, Christopher is completing the dream — now that his top choice for college, Morgan State University, has accepted him for admission this coming fall. His mom had a partner in helping Chris get there: New Haven's LEAP youth academics and recreation agency.

LEAP <u>organizes tours</u> of Southern colleges <u>for the teens</u> who work at the nonprofit as youth counselors. Christopher ended up going on four of those tours.

On the fourth tour, Christopher, who is currently a Engineering and Science University Magnet School senior, instantly fell in love with Morgan State. He texted his mother, Krystal Augustine, asking whether he could buy a hat at the college. She was bemused about what had attracted him to this out of the dozen schools he had visited.

"I could see myself waking up here with positive energy. I could look outside the window and think that I really love it here," Suggs remembered thinking.

LEAP offers children after-school and summer activities that range from swimming to gardening. Young people can then graduate into a leadership training program that prepares them for paid positions as junior counselors or swim instructors within the organization.

Suggs started with LEAP in eighth grade as a student and has been a swim instructor for two years. He taught four swim classes a day for over 30 hours a week during the summer.

The program turned the former introvert, by this own description, into a leader. He would encourage fellow coworkers with small pep talks: "The day is almost over. Stay strong!" He would sometimes stay after the end of his day to make sure everything was clean and put away, Augustine said.

Seeing him take on these new responsibilities taught Augustine to let go of him a little bit, she said. When his work hours conflicted with hers, she had to trust that he could figure out the bus system on own; now he teaches her about the bus numbers and routes.

LEAP staffer Victoria Wang said that this trust is part of what made LEAP different from other organizations when it was founded in 1992.

"A lot of public programs treated youth, especially teenagers, as a problem that needed to be solved. LEAP is about giving them the responsibility and the proper preparation, and they prove that they can create a positive space and be role models," Wang said.

LEAP's week-long, out-of-stage college tours are part of the investment in the future of swim instructors and junior counselors that is built into the program. All of LEAP's swim instructors and junior counselors have graduated and been accepted to college every year since 2012 (the

furthest back for which statistics are available), excluding those who chose the military instead, according to Wang.



EMILY HAYS PHOTO Krystal Augustine with her sons, at LEAP.

Augustine said that Suggs' high school does offer college tours but that while the cost is probably significantly shaved down, it was not subsidized enough for her to afford to send her son.

Augustine works as a financial assistant at the Department of Psychology for Yale University. All of LEAP's high school seniors graduated from high school last year and were accepted to college, according to the nonprofit's annual report published this fall.

Wang said that in light of <u>budget cuts</u> to public school counselors, LEAP is investing more in its college access programs, which also include SAT preparation classes. She said some students did not find out about all the paperwork they needed to turn in until April, when it was almost too late.

Suggs and his mom were organized about all of his college application deadlines. Augustine said that they sat down together to fill out the FAFSA financial aid paperwork on the first day the portal opened this fall.



Suggs heard back from Morgan State on Dec. 1, earlier than he expected. He turned to his mom and asked whether the acceptance letter was real.

"With all of my high school work and the responsibilities I take on, it was just a reminder—you're doing good," Suggs said.

Suggs has his own plans to lift up future generations of young adults with his degree. He said that he wants to study psychology and focus his career on helping address youth trauma and mental health in cities.

Meanwhile, Augustine hasn't given up on her own dream. She has gone back to school at Albertus Magnus College with an eye toward working in human resources and recruitment. Despite the demands of her job and being a single mom, she made the Dean's List with a 3.94 GPA, she said.

"My household is good. My kids are good," she said. "Now I have to do something for me."

Tags: Christopher Suggs, LEAP, Krystal Augustine

New Haven Academy Students and Students from NHPS Take Part In The Inauguration

Inaugural Call: "We Have To Believe In One Another"

by JUSTIN ELICKER | Jan 2, 2020 7:33 am

(2) Comments | Post a Comment | E-mail the Author

Posted to: **Politics**



PAUL BASS PHOTO Mayor Justin Elicker delivering his inaugural address.

Natalie Semmel and Sebastian Ward our Emcees from New Haven Academy, co-founders of New Haven High School Democrats take part in the inauguration or Mayor Justin Elicker.

Following is the text of Mayor Justin Elicker's inaugural address Wednesday.

Thank you to Natalie Semmel and Sebastian Ward our Emcees from New Haven Academy. You know a lot of people say that the youth are our future but these two are our youth of today. By the way, they are also co-founders of New Haven High School Democrats. I hear they are looking for new members.

And thanks to the Fair Haven K-8 Singers, Varick Choir, Teddeybown, Jordan Watson. Thanks for the inspiration from our clergy and to the distinguished oath administrators for making this day memorable.

Thanks also to our incredible City Departments - New Haven Fire, Police, Health, Transportation, Traffic & Parking Departments, and New Haven Public Schools. Thanks to Glenn Worthy, Principal of James Hillhouse High School for hosting and to the Hillhouse Junior ROTC.

And I'd like to give a special thanks to the Inauguration committee and Barbara Segaloff for organizing a spectacular event.

Senator Blumenthal, Congresswoman DeLauro, Lieutenant Governor Bysiewicz, President Walker Myers and honorable members of the Board of Alders, City-Town Clerk Smart, President Goldson, Dr. Edward Joyner and honorable members of the Board of Education, Dr. Tracey, Mom, Dad, my in-laws Angie and Dave, cousin Kristie and her boys, Natalie, Molly and April, and everyone here (did I forget anyone), good afternoon.

Thank you for being here today.

If you're here, it's because you care about New Haven. We know of course there are countless others like us, who are not here today, who also love New Haven. And I know—as I take a few minutes of our shared time today to talk about New Haven— where it has been, where it's going, and what it needs, that I'll be preaching to the choir. You know we're in this together, or you wouldn't be here. You know this city, as I know this city, and you care about it, as I do—or you wouldn't be here. So if you learn something today, if you're inspired by anyone today, please take that back to your community and spread the word.

I'll be describing our New Haven, which is as much yours as it is mine, as it is the people who have grown up here and flown out into the wide world, and those who are yet to come. Let's reflect on that for a moment and parse it out. Consistent with world-wide trends, the people who call New Haven home have always been in flux, since European settlers took this land from the Quinnipiac tribe. With the changes in people come changes in the use and industry of the city. The Quinnipiac worked and thrived on the land. Early European settlers brought international commerce including a vast shipping

industry that used our harbor. The industrial revolution beaconed rural Americans to our city center. New waves of European immigrants generated churches, pizza, the hamburger and a charity hospital. Black Migration from the south, looking for work and for a new life, built neighborhoods and culture. In more recent years Latinx newcomers also built neighborhoods and enriched our art and culture and community. And today, our Middle Eastern and Arab communities are finding their place in the fabric of the Elm City.

Like these newcomers, I was also at one time a newcomer to New Haven, as was my wife Natalie. Does being a newcomer mean that you don't belong, that you can't love a place and its people? Of course not. Natalie and I hope that our children, who were born here, also feel that they belong, and love this place and its people.

We're a city that celebrates the new and the old, the visitors and the home-grown. But with history as a guide, we should anticipate and expect that as global forces shift who lives here, there will also be changes in how we live, work, and govern. And change can be hard. But we are in it together.

Toni Harp was also a newcomer to New Haven at one time. And then she dedicated over 30 years to public service of our city, and for that she must be applauded. For the last six years she served as our mayor, and, being Mayor is not an easy job. Actually, to be honest, in these past four minutes so far as mayor, it hasn't been too bad. But I'm sure there will be many challenging moments. Despite that the job presented her with many challenges, Mayor Harp took on the job

with passion and dedication. She worked hard to invest in young people through Youth Stat and by ensuring the recreation of the Q House. She dedicated time and resources to communities in New Haven who felt they hadn't been listened to in decades. Mayor Harp cared about those who felt they didn't have a voice and I admire her for that. I'd ask you to join me now in giving a round of applause for Mayor Harp and for the impact she has had on our community.

Now, as we enter this new decade, New Haven is again experiencing great change. We are growing rapidly—at a pace not seen since the 1920s.

• 84% of the US population lives in urban areas. By 2050 an estimated 89% of the US population is projected to live in urban areas. And as we've seen, New Haven is experiencing this phenomenon, too. Since 2014 the City has added more than 1,000 new rental units with more than 4,000 more under construction or in the planning stages. The City's most recent estimates are that our population has grown from 130,000 residents just a few years ago to 133,000.

Incidentally, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the Census here, particularly because the Lt. Governor has joined us. Lt. Gov. Bysiewicz has been working tirelessly to ensure that everyone is counted and our City will be working hard to make sure that every single New Haven resident is counted.

This growth presents an incredible opportunity for New Haven. To try to stem this tide or insulate our city from this trend would be impossible, and irresponsible. For the survival and success of our City, we must lean into this wave and create an environment in New Haven that encourages growth. But we will not be passive observers of this change. We've got to ensure that growth benefits everyone in our community.

As we harness this tremendous energy, new investment, rapid growth, and increasing momentum, we must ensure it carries everyone higher. We will grow by welcoming outside resources and people, and we will grow from within. Inclusive Growth, Equitable Growth. So that every New Haven resident has the opportunity to thrive.

- One Housing. We must ensure that New Haven residents have more options for safe, clean and healthy affordable housing units. Nearly 1/3 of New Haven residents spend over 50% of their income on housing. Now is the time to prioritize the creation of affordable housing. And, as so many know, what we often call affordable housing isn't affordable to everyone. We must have new deeply affordable housing units. My administration will prioritize holding bad landlords accountable and ensure residential growth occurs in ways that provide quality and affordable options that are more accessible to all residents.
- Two Jobs. We must ensure access to jobs for New Haven residents. 30 percent of New Haven residents are underemployed. And the potential here for growth is huge, particularly in the medical, bioscience, digital health, tech, advanced manufacturing and construction sectors. We have an \$800M neuroscience center that is coming online over the coming years and our medical sciences and biotech industry, with the right nurturing, are poised to explode. And as we all know, any job isn't what's truly going to make a difference in someone's life it's a career that's important. People don't need two or three part-time jobs. What people need is one good

job. My administration will prioritize job training and career ladders to ensure New Haven residents benefit from our growing industry.

- Three Education. We must ensure our public schools serve the needs of every child. And not just the academic needs, but the Whole Child. And parents, please opt into our public schools. Most residents in New Haven don't have a choice between public or private. Every parent wants the best for their child. Together, we can make our public schools the best for every child. My administration, in partnership with Dr. Tracey and the Board of Education will prioritize those areas with demonstrated success in improving the lives of children early childhood education, age- appropriate learning including play-based learning, quality afterschool and summer programs, programs that prepare kids for success in college, and programs that ensure those kids who may not go to college have training and access to a good job after graduation.
- And Four Safety. We must do all this while ensuring the basic job of government gets done safe neighborhoods safe from violence, safe from petty crime, safe from dangerous drivers. Reliable municipal services, from pot-holes to plowing.

These goals are not easy to accomplish. We are in a budget crisis and must correct course. Our state is experiencing similar pressures. Thousands of residents in our city are facing challenges of extreme poverty and the trauma associated with it. And each of these priorities will take many years for us to accomplish.

So how will we get there?

- First, it's critical that our government be open and inclusive. DataHaven's most recent community report stated that only 34% of New Haven residents believe that government is responsive to their concerns and needs. Think about that. Nearly 2/3 of all New Haveners think their government isn't responsive. Our government must be open and inclusive in the way we conduct our business. I believe our transition team has set the right tone with the level of public inclusion in our work to compile the transition report. I was excited when our transition team felt up to the task of holding so many public meetings, and we were all thrilled when hundreds of city residents attended our first and second public transition meetings. Talk is cheap, but showing up to two public meetings to engage with neighbors and set a tone and course for our city—that's an investment. I thank all of you who have contributed to the transition process.
- The second way we get there is by holding fast to our values, especially at this time in our nation's history when those values are under attack.

We are a city that rejects hate. Today we see a level of brazen nationalism, anti Semitism, racism and divisive rhetoric and actions around the nation. New Haven rejects all forms of hate, period. We won't compromise on this point and we will call it out when we see it.

We are a city that serves as a sanctuary for everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, economic status, sexual orientation and immigration status and under my administration will continue to value every person and continue as such a sanctuary.

We are a city that cares about our environment. We in the midst of a climate emergency, and with lack of leadership in Washington on the greatest challenge facing our earth in human history, our City must lead the way in valuing the earth and taking responsibility for addressing climate change.

We are a city that takes responsibility for the past. We acknowledge the historical inequities that have been created through racism and will work as a community to undo those harms.

• The third way we get there. Most importantly, we must recognize we are in it together. We are in this together.

We all must work together. And I think we all have work to do in this area. All too often in this age of social media and anonymous commenting, when people experience adversity and disagreement, they today follow the path of cynicism and least resistance, and to echo Michelle Obama's words, when they go low... Let's shake off that negativity and distrust. If we're going to accomplish great things, we have to act like great people.

We have to trust that each other are well-intentioned. We have to believe in one another. We have to acknowledge each other's integrity, even when we disagree. And we should be vigilant not to let those few, loud, negative voices distract us, cloud our focus, or corrupt our vision. We must work together.

That starts with me. I'm here in front of you because you've given me an opportunity to lead this city - to follow my heart, my integrity, and make the right decisions based on the best of my knowledge and my ability. And I expect you to hold me to that.

It starts with me, and must continue with you. I will work hard to meet your expectations, but our success requires all of us.

Success requires my friends on the Board of Alders and the Board of Education to work collaboratively with me, as I will with you. Success requires that we not allow small disagreements—which we may have from time to time—drown out the larger goals. Together, we can accomplish our shared goals. I have also served on the Board, and I know you don't have an easy job, either. New Haven's success depends on us working together.

Success requires a robust partnership with our state delegation and state-wide partners, who I know understand that Connecticut can prosper only if it invests in cities like New Haven. I know you haven't always felt valued. You are crucial to our City's success.

Success requires our neighbors in surrounding towns to not just work here, dine here, or see a show here, but to view yourselves as part of the New Haven community, to share that pride and responsibility. To recognize what New Haven provides to those struggling with substance abuse, provides in the number of existing affordable housing options, provides for our homeless and more and do more in your town and provide more resources to us so we all can share in these responsibilities.



Yale President Peter Salovey, Associate VP Lauren Zucker in front row during Elicker's address.

Success requires a strong partnership with Yale University and Yale New Haven Hospital. And it requires both the University and Hospital to think deeply about what it means to be a non-profit, what it means to be a member of the New Haven community and commit to doing your part. Our challenges are your challenges. Our home is your home.

And success requires the rest of us, to be involved, be focused, be patient with the time it takes to get things done, (I haven't yet formally received the transition report and I understand they've got a 100 day plan that now I've got only 99 days to implement.) Success requires all of us.

New Haven has such potential. And that's not just political rhetoric. You all wouldn't be here if you didn't believe in our potential. We are at a defining moment in our city's history – to address our deep challenges we must grow as a city - yes in population but more importantly grow as a people – so we have the collective wherewithal to work together and accomplish what so many think we can't. To ensure that New Haven becomes a place where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

To close, I want to thank you again for giving me this opportunity to be the\ newcomer to the Mayor's Office. I pledge to you that I will give it everything I've got, and I ask you to do the same. Change will not be easy, but together, we can go far. Thank you and Happy New Year.

Wilbur Cross High School Special Education Teacher, Ursula Pendziwater, name East Haven's Person of the Week

Seeing the Successes in Special Education

PERSON OF THE WEEK

By Elizabeth Reinhart

Courier Correspondent

rsula Pendziwater possesses key characteristics enabling success in many areas of her life, but her most significant contribution to the East Haven community is as someone who positively influences the lives of hundreds of students through a career in special education.

A longtime resident and East Haven High School alumna, Ursula's spark for special education was ignited by her experiences as a substitute teacher in

the school district.

Originally pursuing a degree in elementary education at Central Connecticut State University, Ursula's plans were altered with a misdiagnosis of a terminal condition, which was later correctly diagnosed as Lyme disease.

Before her proper diagnosis, Ursula moved back home and through her father, who was principal of East Haven High School at the time, started volunteering and substitute teaching in Judy D'Amato's special education classroom.

Ursula quickly realized that this academic specialization was for her.

"I fell in love with the kids," Ursula says.

She was inspired by D'Amato's "passion for working with the students. She gave so much of herself. She enjoyed going to work every day. You could tell that she loved her job," she says.

Based on her experiences as a substitute, Ursula changed her major to special education, eventually earning a bachelor's degree in sociology and special education from Southern Connecticut State

During this time period, it was Ursula's sister, who had just started working for a tick control service company, who suggested her ailment could be Lyme

"She said, 'You have all of the symptoms,' Ursula says. 'I saw the doctor and the blood test was positive for Lyme. A year later I was fine."

With her health restored, Ursula was eager to

Her first job in special education was as a paraprofessional at Deer Run School and Overbrook Elementary School in East Haven. In this role, she provided support to teachers inside and outside of the classroom environment.

Throughout her career, she worked with various age groups, from middle school to high school and eventually as a special education teacher for grades 9 to 12 in the alternative high school program at North Branford High School.



Though she knew she wanted to be a teacher, an unexpected diversion into a East Haven High School special education classroom led Ursula Pendziwater to discover the focus that would define her career. Photo courtesy of

She worked as a special education teacher and transition coordinator in North Branford for 18 years. In 2000, she earned a master's degree in education from the University of New England.

As a teacher, she helped identify at risk students and academic interventions and strategies that could be used in general education classrooms for students with a specific learning disability or attention deficit disorder, or who are emotionally disturbed, autistic, or have other mental health issues.

One of the highlights of her time in North Branford was helping to create a student-run coffee shop. The shop, which was initially run by alternative education students, eventually became an ideal resource for all special needs students.

Students would learn "how to be cost effective" in pricing coffee from the vendor, "make coffee deliveries to teacher classrooms and learn how to handle money—we used a real cash register," Ursula says.

The program, which is now an elective for the general school population, recently celebrated its 10-year anniversary.

Although she admits, "it was hard for me to leave" her position in North Branford, she feels that "all of my previous positions have helped" get her where

See SEEING THE SUCCESSES page 10

Seeing the Successes in Special Education

ontinued from page 2

ne is today, as transition coordiator and planning, placement am meeting chairperson for filbur Cross High School in New aven.

"I can't say enough about the apport that I have found in ew Haven," Ursula says. "From y special education director, upervisor, [and] colleagues to ne teachers. They are wonderful. hey go above and beyond for the udents."

At Wilbur Cross High School, rsula's work focuses on preparng special education students for



life after graduation and coordinating meetings with parents and school staff to discuss appropriate strategies and services for special education students.

She also acts as a liaison with the state Department of Development Services, connecting students and parents with various resources at the state-level.

Ursula says that the greatest reward in her career has been "seeing [students] after they graduate, being successful."

Some of her past students work "in a wide variety of jobs [such as] an assistant manager at a clothing store, fireman, [in] landscaping, [at a] hair salon," she says.

As much as she has taught her students, Ursula has learned from them "to never give up, and to keep working hard."

In her spare time, Ursula enjoys

spending time with her husband, and the team's co-captains, my Duane, of 23 years and their two daughters, Alexis and Nicole.

We enjoy watching and supporting our daughters in their sports," Ursula says.

The family travels and spends time with their extended family, building vacations around their daughters' Amateur Athletic Union tournaments.

With their older daughter, Alexis, playing basketball all year-round, the sport is an integral part of family life, making Ursula's involvement in helping to coordinate an alumnae game against Branford on Friday, Jan. 3 at 6 p.m. a natural extension of her commitment to family.

"The game has really been a joint effort of many people, from [East Haven Girls Basketball Head] Coach [Anthony] Russell daughter Alexis and Isabella Ragaini, to other volunteers and parents," Ursula says. "I am taking part, along with these other individuals, to help facilitate a fun event to benefit girls' basketball at the high school."

Ursula became involved with the team as a parent representative two years ago. She has helped coordinate numerous fundraisers to support the team including selling 50/50 raffle tickets with her younger daughter, Nicole.

For those interested in donating, playing, or attending the East Haven Girls' Basketball Alumnae game and fundraiser, contact Coach Russell at arussell@east-haven.k12.ct.us 203-823-7020.

State Regional Concert at Wilbur Cross





My awesome and amazing students participated in the State Regionals concert this weekend. I am so proud of these students. I also have to commend Mr. Kendall Alderman who worked tirelessly to help these students prepare. He is an amazing teacher and I am lucky to have him on my team. (Comment by Principal Edith Johnson)

COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR January 17, 2020 9:00 AM - 11:00AM

A. L. TROUP SCHOOL AUDITORIUM 259 EDGEWOOD AVE. NEW HAVEN, CT. 06511 475.220.3000

YMCA,
LEGAL CLINIC
ADULT EDUCATION,
YALE HEALTH CLINIC
M.O.M.S. PARTNERSHIP
READ TO GROW (free books),
COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY,
OUR WORLD (afterschool program)
THE MONK CENTER (after school program),
AMERICAN JOB CENTER/WORKFORCE ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY BUILDERS EARLY LEARNING CENTER
FAMILY CHECK UP - NEW HAVEN HEALTH DEPARTMENT

And OTHERS

CONTACT: Tamra Green FRC Site Coordinator 475.220.3000

PLEASE, COME OUT AND JOIN US!