

**GECC Chairperson Report**  
**by Janet Ford, Chairperson**  
**For: April 7, 2008 GECC Meeting**

1. The Graustein Memorial Fund has offered the Discovery Grant to four new communities, bringing the total of Discovery communities in CT up to 53.
2. Discovery's Capacity Building program for 2008 includes three different opportunities during the year for two representatives from each Discovery community to participate in Facilitative Leadership Training offered by the Interaction Institute for Social Change (IISC). The second Facilitative Leadership Training will be held on April 16 -18, 2008 from 8:30am – 5:00pm each day at the Farmington Homewood Suites in Farmington. As a result of this training in leadership development, people in organizations, schools and communities will build networks, collaborate, deepen their connections to one another, act on their commitments and achieve desired results. Some examples of IISC's work in the world include clients such as Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA, Cherish Every Child Springfield, the Ford Foundation, Public Schools of Brookline and Rochester Children's Zone.
3. 7<sup>th</sup> Community Preschool Workshop:

The seminar topic for the April 1<sup>st</sup> Preschool Workshop was "Literacy Environment Tools." This was a field trip to the Model Lab School at St. Joseph's College. The workshop was attended by 18 individuals representing 6 different communities. The final workshop for the 07' – 08' school year is scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup>. The topic for the final workshop of the year is "Goals for Practice for 08'-09' and Debrief."

Past Certificates of Attendance will be distributed both in April and in May. Certificates from the last workshop in May will be either hand delivered or mailed to participants. The GECC thanks parent Gary Ebersole for his work on developing the monthly Certificates of Attendance.

4. The GECC will be hosting a 6 part workshop series for parents and childcare providers during the 08'-09' school year entitled "*Key issues facing parents of young learners in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*" The consultant presenting this series is Deborah Zipkin, Director, The Family Resource Center at Charter Oak Academy, West Hartford, CT.
5. We are awaiting word from both Holcomb Farm and South Church regarding the GECC's request to use available space at either of these locations for the purpose of establishing a Family Resource Center.
6. Sheri Litchfield, Dot Muszynski, Nannie Brown, Joan Rogers and I met last week with Kerry Kielbasa and Ingrid Helander to discuss a Family Resource Center and a Parents As Teachers Program.