



**For Immediate Release
May 7, 2004**

**Contact: Claudia Stepke
646.296.7351**

**U.S. CONGRESSMAN TIM BISHOP, BRIDGEHAMPTON SCHOOL'S SUPERINTENDENT
AND PRINCIPAL,
UNITED WAY OF LONG ISLAND PRESIDENT
AND OTHERS PARTICIPATE IN SITE VISIT &
CHECK PRESENTATION TO EXPAND
THE PARENT-CHILD HOME PROGRAM'S
FIRST EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION/SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM IN THE
HAMPTONS**

Bridgehampton, NY -- U.S. Congressman Tim Bishop, Bridgehampton School Superintendent Dr. Theodore Grocki, Bridgehampton School Principal Dianne B. Youngblood and United Way of Long Island President and CEO Pat Foye attended a check presentation and site visit today at the Bridgehampton School. The check was a United Way Targeted Care grant for \$8,000 and will enable the first Parent-Child Home Program in the Hamptons to expand to serve an additional five Bridgehampton families – for a total of 15 – through the school district.

"The Parent-Child Home Program is making a real difference for children in Bridgehampton and around the world. I would like to thank the United Way for supporting this program and bringing its benefits to even more families in our community," said Congressman Tim Bishop.

The Parent-Child Home Program is a proven, cost-effective school readiness program focused on developing language and early literacy skills in children from families that face obstacles such as poverty and language barriers. The Program provides intensive home visits, twice a week for two years during which home visitors introduce parents and children to reading and play activities that build the language and literacy skills necessary for school readiness and future success. Founded over 35 years ago and now headquartered in Port Washington, NY, The Parent-Child Home program has over 140 sites worldwide. Research demonstrates that program participants outperform students from similar socioeconomic backgrounds on school readiness measures and go on to graduate from high school at the same rates as middle-class students, a 20-percent higher rate than other low-income students.

- more -

”Every superintendent wants to see all children succeed,” said Superintendent Theodore Grocki of Bridgehampton. “The probability for all to succeed is enhanced when a school works with the parents and children from birth through graduation.”

Recent research published in the *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology* about the South Carolina Parent-Child Home Program demonstrated that four successive years of first graders who received two years of Parent-Child Home Program home visits when they were two and three were more likely to be prepared for school than their socio-economic peers and than all children in the state.

The program is successful in Bridgehampton because the school district has tailored the program to address the community’s needs. The program was introduced to the community by Principal Dr. Youngblood who learned about the program from a Parent-Child Home Program board member. The Bridgehampton school district, Rauch Foundation and the Sandy River Charitable Foundation provided the initial support for the site, which opened in October 2003.

“We are delighted to be working with the United Way of Long Island and the Bridgehampton School District to expand The Parent-Child Home Program in the east end. We are grateful to Congressman Bishop for his support for ensuring that all children have the opportunity to enter school ready to learn and that all parents receive the support they need to become their child's first and most important teacher,” said Parent-Child Home Program Executive Director Sarah Walzer. “We look forward to continuing to work with him to expand the program to reach all families in need of services in his district.”

###