

## CHILD CARE



*Pictured above is the Garden Street Day Care opening soon.*

Child care is another critical issue for the Asylum Hill neighborhood. Access to affordable quality day care is a most necessary component for the State's welfare to work program. The severe lack of quality day care in the area is a problem which must be addressed if Asylum Hill is going to succeed in getting people back to work. AHOP's parents group, PAVE (Parents Against Violent Environments), reports:

- In the Asylum Hill neighborhood, two day care facilities have closed down within the past year.
- The demand for day care is doubling at a time when slots are decreasing by over 50%.
- As reported by Infoline, infant care is the most requested service and largest unmet need in Asylum Hill.
- Only one center in Asylum Hill has openings for infant care.

The cost of day care is also expensive. The average cost for pre-schoolers is \$132 per week, while it costs \$170 for infants. There is a need in Asylum Hill for a cooperative network of licensed in-home child care providers. Also, most day care slots in Asylum Hill are filled by non-residents. While it is important to meet the needs of Asylum Hill's corporate workers, it is equally important to meet the needs of neighborhood residents, not only in terms of available slots but also affordability. On a positive note, according to a *Hartford Courant* article on Friday October 17, 1997, Hartford will be receiving \$3.3 million to expand and improve preschool and day care programs city-wide.

Listed below are child care establishments in Asylum Hill. In addition to those listed, a Community Child Care Center at 205 Garden street is scheduled to open in January 1998. The Center will be accepting children from 6 weeks to 5 years old. This information was furnished by AHOP and the Connecticut Department of Public Health.

**Licensed Day Care in Asylum Hill**

<b>Day Care</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Ages</b>	<b>Capacity</b>
Capital Community Technical College Lab School	61 Woodland St.	3 yrs. to 5 yrs.	20
Cathedral Day Care Center	805 Asylum Ave.	12 months to 5 yrs.	38
CRT Head Start - Grace Lutheran Church	6 Woodland St.	3 yrs. to 4 yrs.	18
St. Francis Child Care Center	129 Woodland St.	3 yrs. to 5 yrs.	30
St. Francis Infant/Toddler Center	137 Woodland St.	6 weeks to 2 yrs.	22
Univ. of Hartford Early Child Care Center	10 Woodland St.	3 yrs. to 5 yrs.	24
YWCA Child Care Center	814 Asylum Ave.	6 weeks to 5 yrs.	30
6 Licensed Family Day Care Homes		not specified	36 (6 each)
		<b>Total:</b>	<b>218</b>

***PUBLIC SAFETY***

Asylum Hill suffers from a perception as an unsafe neighborhood with open drug-selling and prostitution. While this was true in the past, thanks to increased police surveillance, sting operations, and community policing, there is a definite drop in these activities. In fact, serious crime has decreased consistently every year in Asylum Hill since 1990. In 1996, serious crime dropped over 15%. A campaign to change this perception of the Hill will be part of the revitalization efforts.

Thanks to a federal grant, Asylum Hill has an added police presence including a police sub-station on Huntington Street. Aside from two (2) Patrol Officers and the Community Service Officer, there is an additional four (4) man unit and a Sergeant assigned to the neighborhood. Although this has been a most welcomed addition to the neighborhood, there is still a lack of bike patrol officers in Asylum Hill.