

New Haven-based All Our Kin, joins Aspen Institute Ascend Network

By Brian Charles, New Haven Register

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NEW HAVEN>> All Our Kin, a city-based nonprofit, was named a member of the prestigious Aspen Institute Ascend Network Tuesday.

All Our Kin joins a nationwide network of 60 nonprofits from 24 states focused on ending poverty.

More than 250 applications were submitted for the program.

"These leaders are fueling change for America's families," said Walter Isaacson, president and CEO of the Aspen Institute, in a statement issued Tuesday. "As we reflect on the 50th anniversary of the 'War on Poverty,' the Aspen Institute is proud to invest in transformational ideas to break the cycle of inter-generational poverty."

Joining **the network** is an opportunity for the organizations.

Membership in the Ascend Network, means All Our Kin will share research, data and strategies for combating poverty with other members of the network.

"We were just honored to be part of the list," said Jessica Sager, co-founder and executive director of All Our Kin.

The Aspen Institute selected All Our Kin to join the program because of the nonprofit's commitment to assisting adults and children. Founded in 1999, All Our Kin works on a simple premise: help the child care providers and the entire neighborhood benefits.

"We have a real child care shortage, specifically children and toddlers," Sager said. "A lot of the times what happens in low income neighborhoods is that women just pitch in to help; one woman will watch her neighbors' family members' children."

But too often the women caring for the children in low income neighborhoods are untrained. All Our Kin trains women in low income neighborhoods to care for children. Those who go through the program are licensed and can receive professional development that helps them improve the care they provide, and land jobs.

"It's really a triple win: the children win, the women win and the parents who need child care win" Sager said.

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