

## Help All Our Kin Win \$100,000!!!

All Our Kin has been nominated for a \$100,000 award as part of an exciting philanthropic web challenge hosted by Stratton Faxon. The award will go to the nonprofit who receives the most votes, and we need your help to ensure All Our Kin wins!

All Our Kin is a Connecticut-based nonprofit that trains, supports, and sustains community child care providers to ensure that children and families have the foundation they need to succeed. Through their programs, child care professionals succeed as business owners; working parents find stable, high-quality care for their children; and children, the workforce of tomorrow, gain an educational foundation that lays the groundwork for achievement in school and beyond.

If All Our Kin wins, we will be able to build on our exciting new garden project and install organic gardens in the backyards of family child care providers, who care for our youngest and most vulnerable children. The gardens furnish a fun, hands-on way to get children outside and to teach children about where food comes from. They also provide a sustainable source of nutritious and delicious produce that child care providers can share with children and families who may be unable to afford fresh produce otherwise.

In addition to building the gardens, the money will help expand our innovative, high-touch coaching and consultation program. Our educational consultants will work one-on-one with family child care providers to teach them how to build a curriculum around the gardens, engage families in the project, and create extended learning opportunities that capture children's natural curiosity and wonder about the natural world and support social and emotional development, literacy, math, and scientific inquiry.

Currently, due to a combination of poor nutritional education, lack of exercise, and the high cost of produce and other healthy foods, over twenty percent of low-income children in Connecticut are obese by their fourth birthday. A large number of children consume half of their daily calories at school, and for many children this food may be the only food they regularly eat. As teachers of primarily low-income children, family child care providers thus play a crucial role in providing children with a healthy start in life. Through the garden project, providers will integrate hands-on learning and the natural world to teach children and families how to make healthy choices for themselves. They will also help children and families learn how to eat healthy, exercise, and explore the world around them – on a budget.

To help All Our Kin win the \$100,000, simply go to the Stratton Faxon website, <http://www.strattonfaxon.com/charity-contest/site-launch-contest>, and vote for All Our Kin!

Thanks so much for your help! And thanks to Stratton Faxon for hosting this fun challenge and supporting New Haven's great nonprofits.