



east bay community action program
THE BRIDGE to SELF-RELIANCE

EBCAP's Christine Arouth Recognized for Literacy Work



Christine Arouth, Director of the Newport Family and Child Opportunity Zone, a division of East Bay Community Action Program, was recognized in September by the Newport School Committee because she was recently welcomed to the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading's (GLR) Council of Champions, a group of more than 140 individuals that the GLR Campaign recognizes as its greatest proponents. According to the Campaign's website the Campaign "is a collaborative effort by

foundations, nonprofit partners, business leaders, government agencies, states and communities across the nation to ensure that more children in low-income families succeed in school and graduate prepared for college, a career, and active citizenship."

Said Ron Fairchild, Director of the GLR Support Center, "collective efforts (of the Council of Champions) help fuel and sustain the work of the more than 360 communities in 43 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Canada that are currently engaged in the GLR Network."

The Campaign for GLR focuses on an important predictor of school success and high school graduation—grade-level reading by the end of third grade. The Campaign is founded on the belief that schools need the support of "engaged communities mobilized to remove barriers, expand opportunities,

and assist parents in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities to serve as full partners in the success of their children . . . (in order) to assure student success,” as stated on its website. Christine Arouth, as Director of the NFCOZ, works closely with Newport Public Schools to support the achievement of grade level reading – through before and after school programs and school vacation camps where literacy enrichment programs are provided to elementary school students.

The Newport Family and Child Opportunity Zone (NFCOZ) is a member of the statewide COZ Network and the RI Partnership for Community Schools. It creates partnerships among families, schools, and the community to coordinate comprehensive academic, social and health/wellness services for students and their families, resulting in improved educational outcomes for children. Opportunities for families to get involved increase family participation in their child’s school and education. Supportive services are provided to families on site at the school, and extended learning opportunities allow students to try new activities, learn new skills, develop social and emotional competencies, and meet new friends. Arouth, who marked 20 years of service to EBCAP this year, also coordinates the COZ program in Middletown (MCOZ) at the Aquidneck and Forest Avenue Elementary Schools and the Gaudet Middle School. The NFCOZ and the MCOZ are divisions of East Bay Community Action Program which is a private, non-profit health and human services agency that serves residents of 10 cities and towns spanning Rhode Island’s east bay region.

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