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**MEDIA CONTACT:** Monica Buchanan, Assistant Director of Communications  
(860) 837-5701; [mbuchanan@connecticutchildrens.org](mailto:mbuchanan@connecticutchildrens.org)

Debra Dudack, Communications Specialist  
(860) 837-6225; [ddudack@connecticutchildrens.org](mailto:ddudack@connecticutchildrens.org)

## ***HELP ME GROW* NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**HARTFORD, Conn.** - The *Help Me Grow*® National Center, founded in Hartford and based at Connecticut Children's Medical Center, now has a new executive director. After a nationwide search, Kimberly Martini-Carvell, MA, was chosen to fill the new leadership position.

Prior to joining the *Help Me Grow* National Center, Martini-Carvell worked as the associate vice president for programs at The Village for Families and Children in Hartford where she created and managed prevention and early intervention programs for families and children. She has also worked as a child and family development consultant for the United Way of Central & Northeastern Connecticut, as director of the CT Family Development Institute of the Children's Trust Fund, and as an adjunct professor for the University of Connecticut's School of Family Studies.

During her career, Martini-Carvell has also served on the national Zero to Three Policy Committee, the national Childhood Traumatic Stress Network's Birth-6 Workgroup and the leadership team of the Connecticut Parent Educators Network.

The innovative *Help Me Grow* program was developed by Paul Dworkin, MD, executive vice president of the Connecticut Children's Office for Community Child Health, as a pilot program in Hartford nearly 20 years ago to identify children who are at-risk for developmental or behavioral problems and link them to services offered in their communities. Since then, it has expanded statewide throughout Connecticut and has been replicated in more than 20 other states.

"I'm extremely pleased that Kimberly is joining the *Help Me Grow* National team," said Dr. Dworkin. "Her extensive experience working with early childhood development and intervention will help the National Center further its mission of supporting states around the nation to build HMG systems that connect at-risk children and their families to crucial community services."

The *Help Me Grow* National Center is one of 13 community-based programs that make up the Connecticut Children's Office for Community Child Health.

**Interviews with Kimberly Martini-Carvell and Paul Dworkin, MD are available upon request.**



***About the Connecticut Children's Office for Community Child Health:***

The Office serves as a coordinating entity for Connecticut Children's existing community-oriented programs and as an incubator for innovative ideas that can broaden partnerships between the child health sector and other sectors that serve children and families to work toward systemic solutions to child health problems. Ultimately, the Office will enable Connecticut Children's to play a role in optimizing the health of children across a broad array of community venues instead of simply preventing or treating disease.

***About Connecticut Children's:***

Connecticut Children's Medical Center is a nationally recognized, 187-bed not-for-profit children's hospital serving as the primary teaching hospital for the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. Named among the best in the nation in the annual U.S. News & World Report "Best Children's Hospitals" rankings, Connecticut Children's is the only free-standing children's hospital in Connecticut that offers comprehensive, world-class health care to children. Our pediatric services are available at Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford and at Saint Mary's Hospital in Waterbury, with neonatal intensive care units at Hartford Hospital and the University of Connecticut Health Center, along with a state-of-the art ambulatory surgery center, five specialty care centers and 11 other locations across the state. Connecticut Children's has a medical staff of nearly 1,100 practicing in more than 30 specialties.

For more information, visit [WWW.CONNECTICUTCHILDRENS.ORG](http://WWW.CONNECTICUTCHILDRENS.ORG).