



October 31, 2006

Submitted by CT Parent Power

CT Parent Power Hosts Candidate Debate

It was a beautiful fall day. Hundreds of participants from across the state, children and adults alike, streamed to the Middlesex Community College on Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. The Middletown Marching Band was playing and a group of talented children performed for the audience while they waited for the main event. Did these hundreds of people come to attend a sporting event? No, they came to speak up about the needs of children and families and hear gubernatorial and congressional candidates talk about what they would do for children and families if elected.

They came for the **CT Parent Power Candidate Forum**.

CT Parent Power is a statewide parent action network that brings parents together with the goal of providing information on issues, training on how and when to take action, and connections with other people statewide who are ready to act to protect and benefit children.

Each year, CT Parent Power identifies priority issues (based on parent surveys and input) and a plan for action to improve or protect children's well-being. The topics chosen for the candidate forum reflected these priority areas: education funding, health care and early childhood education. Parents gave brief and very personal presentations of their needs and struggles in each area. The candidates were asked to respond to clear questions about how they would address the needs of families.

For more details about the Candidate Forum, which candidates attended, which towns were represented and what questions were asked of the candidates, please contact Ann Pratt, Director of CT Parent Power at (860) 209-1234. ■

The William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund works collaboratively to improve education for Connecticut's children by supporting school change, informing the public debate on educational issues, and strengthening the involvement of parents and the community in education.



To learn more about CT Parent Power, take the Parent Issue survey, and learn how you can become involved, visit the CT Parent Power website at www.ctparentpower.org.