

The Hour

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HEALTH CARE IN CONNECTICUT



Hour photo / Erik Trautmann

Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman tours The Marvin Children's Center Tuesday with executive director Mary Windt and meets with children to hear firsthand about the positive impact The Marvin makes for them.



Hour photo / Erik Trautmann

Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman visits The Marvin Tuesday and also meets with residents.

Lt. Gov. Wyman tours The Marvin

By **ROBIN KAMINSKI**
HOUR STAFF WRITER

NORWALK — Quietly tiptoeing into a classroom at the Marvin Children's Center Tuesday, Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman knelt down to say hello to a group of napping students. "Told you I said I'd come visit," Wyman said softly.

"It's a really nice school." Following a recent trip to Norwalk, Wyman vowed to return to the city to tour The Marvin's full-day, full-year child daycare program and senior housing component to gain a better knowledge of how the intergenerational program works.

Under One Roof Execu-

tive Director Mary Windt figured the tour would take place sometime down the road but was pleasantly surprised to cater to Wyman's quick return.

"I reached out to the Lt. Gov. because I thought it would be a good opportunity for her to see how won-

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derful our programs are and to see the state's tax dollars at work," Windt said. "I'm thrilled to have her visit."

Toting a gift of homemade brownies, a Bright Horizons lunch bag and cup and a picture of colorful handprints from the students, Wyman waved goodbye and made her way over to the senior housing center, which is located down the hall.

The Marvin's congregate housing component was completed in 1997, which included the renovation of the former school building into a residential program space, including 14 housing units and an additional 36 units in a new addition.

Subsidized by the State of Connecticut, Department of Economic and Community Development's Congregate Services for the Frail Elderly, the program, which includes assisted living, serves residents over the age of 62.

"Our youngest resident, right now, is in their 70s and our oldest is 98," Windt said. "The services that we get from the state are fabulous. We're so happy Gov. (Dannel) Malloy supports our services and hasn't cut them."

During her tour,

"It's a great place to stay," said 98-year-old Betty Mayer. "We have everything we need and spending time with the children keeps us from getting old!"

Wyman chatted with several residents who expressed contentment with their living situation. An abundance of intergenerational programming, which pairs the seniors with the young students, is one of the highlights Windt said makes the center different from traditional senior housing or child care facilities.

"It's a great place to stay," said 98-year-old Betty Mayer. "We have everything we need and spending time with the children keeps us from getting old!"

Wyman said she and Malloy are committed to providing quality senior services to ensure seniors live longer and enjoy happier lives.

"I think this is such a great program and a great place," Wyman said. "This kind of situation and what you have here is absolutely wonderful."