



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Diane Stroman  
Vice President of Development  
TEAM Inc.  
203-736-5420, ext. 234  
[dstroman@teaminc.org](mailto:dstroman@teaminc.org)

**Beacon Falls School Readiness Classroom Opens**

Derby, CT, May 21, 2010—TEAM, Inc. and of Beacon Falls announce the opening of Beacon Fall's first school readiness classroom. The classroom located at Laurel Ledge Elementary School serves children ages 3 to 5.

The creation of the school readiness class, which opened in April, is funded by a \$107,000 State Readiness Grant from the Connecticut Departments of Education and Social Services. The funding was acquired through collaboration between Regional School District # 16, the Town of Beacon Falls and TEAM, Inc.

The purpose of the school readiness program is to make affordable preschool available to Beacon Falls' families. The program features individualized teaching including activities intended to build language abilities as well as skills in reading and math. It also emphasizes social skills that children need in school. Dental checks, parental involvement, social services, health services, speech and hearing tests, and snacks are also included in the program.

James Agostine, Region #16 Superintendent of Schools said, "Region 16 is thrilled to partner with the Town of Beacon Falls and TEAM, Inc. to provide educational opportunities to the PreK children of Beacon Falls."

The classroom is staffed with a head teacher and two assistants. The program operates a morning and afternoon session from 8:30 to 11:30 and 12:30 to 3:30 with a classroom size of ten children in each session for a total of 20 children served.

“I am extremely excited about the program. School readiness funding is an important resource that provides opportunity for a quality program for our preschool children.” said Susan Cable First Selectman of Beacon Falls. “The program promotes education, health and safety that prepare the children for formal education which is basically a plus for the child, parent and community.”

Richard Knoll, President/CEO of TEAM, said, “The positive impact of high-quality early childhood programs on children's success in school and beyond has been well documented. Over the past four decades, numerous studies have shown that high-quality early childhood education increases the likelihood that children, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, will become successful students and citizens.” He further states, “The new classroom will be able to provide high-quality, affordable early education to Beacon Falls children and families.”

For enrollment information or to learn more about Beacon Falls School Readiness contact Jamie Rapuano, TEAM Early Education Site Director at (203) 734-8609 ext. 21.

*TEAM Inc. is a private, 501C (3) non-profit corporation whose mission is to connect individuals and families with solutions that lead to well-being, self-sufficiency and full participation in the community. It aims to achieve its mission by conducting activities that address the needs of economically disadvantaged individuals and families including resource mobilization, education, advocacy and service delivery. TEAM programs serve the communities of Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Derby, Milford, Orange, Oxford, Shelton, Seymour and Woodbridge.*