



## **The Jane C Bourns Award for Excellence**

for Exemplary Service to Young Children and Families in the field of Infant,  
Early Childhood Mental Health

Jane C. Bourns was a visionary and tireless advocate for children. A professionally-trained social worker, she devoted most of her career to the development of mental health services for children as Director of Children Services at Wheeler Clinic for 23 years. Jane was a passionate leader, remarkable in her energy and commitment to improving the lives of children and families. She championed prevention initiatives, including the healthy families America program that embody the values that Jane held dear—recognizing the strengths in children and families and developing programs that built on those strengths.

Jane was one of the members of the DCF-sponsored Infant mental Health Task Force that met in the 1990's for several years. She was also a member of the Child health and Development Institute-sponsored Early Childhood Task Force that ended in the fall of 2002. A handful of task force members formed the CT Association for Infant Mental Health Work Group that started meeting in January 2003. The first annual meeting of the CT Infant Mental Health Association was in the spring of 2004. Jane was a part of this work group until her untimely death on September 9, 2003.