



## *A Century of Caring for Youth*

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### **NEWS RELEASE**

#### **64<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HOUSE TOUR TO FEATURE LITCHFIELD HOMES**

#### ***PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE CONNECTICUT JUNIOR REPUBLIC***

The 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Open House Day Tour of Litchfield to benefit the Connecticut Junior Republic (CJR) will be held on Saturday, July 9, 2011 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, rain or shine. Conducted by the Litchfield Aid of CJR, an auxiliary volunteer organization established for the sole purpose of supporting the Connecticut Junior Republic, this year's tour will feature five homes of historic and architectural significance. The self-guided tour also includes additional points of interest and begins on the Litchfield Green.

A Preview Tour will be offered the evening of Friday, July 8, from 5:30 - 7:30 PM, followed by a cocktail reception from 7:00 - 9:30 PM at a private property in Litchfield.

Ticket information for the Preview Tour and Party may be obtained by calling the Connecticut Junior Republic (860) 567-9423. Advance tickets for the Saturday tour may be obtained for \$30.00 by contacting the Litchfield Aid of CJR, P.O. Box 214, Litchfield, Connecticut 06759. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your credit card information, check or money order, made payable to: *Litchfield Aid of CJR*.

Those using credit cards (Visa and MasterCard) for payment should provide account name, number, security code and expiration date. Discover Card and American Express are **NOT** accepted. Advance orders are non-refundable and must be received no later than Friday, June 24. Requests for tickets after this date will be held for pick-up on the day of the Tour at the ticket tent on the Green. ***Special rates are available for tour groups that reserve a minimum of 20 tickets in advance.***

Tickets for the Saturday Tour will be sold on the day of the event for \$35.00 each for adults and children on the Litchfield Green. (No charge for infants.)

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The Litchfield History Museum and the Tapping Reeve House and Law School, recognized as the first law school in America, will also be included in the admission price of the Tour. The History Museum will feature an exhibition, *Goods for Sale! Cash, Credit and Trade in Litchfield, 1790-1850*, which will focus on Litchfield's economic history during the first half of the nineteenth century. The museum will also feature a juried art show sponsored by the Litchfield Visual Arts.

General information about the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Open House Tour may be obtained by contacting the Connecticut Junior Republic at (860) 567-9423, between 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM, or by visiting the Open House website: [www.litchfieldct.com/cjr/tour.html](http://www.litchfieldct.com/cjr/tour.html).

The Litchfield Aid of CJR, which conducts the Annual Open House Day Tour of Litchfield, was founded in 1911 and celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The Aid was founded by 12 Litchfield women for the sole purpose of supporting the programs and facilities of the Connecticut Junior Republic and has been holding various events to raise funds for the benefit of CJR since that time. The Aid held its first Open House Day Tour of Litchfield homes in 1934. One of the earliest-known house tours in the United States, the benefit was so successful that it quickly became the organization's emblem event. The Tour has continued since that time although it was not held every year during the 1930's and 1940's. Each year's tour features five homes of architectural and/or historic interest in the Litchfield area. The homes vary from year to year and the same house is never featured more than once every five years.

In 1994, a Preview Tour and Party were added, and have been held annually since that time on the Friday preceding the Open House Day Tour, which is always held on the second Saturday in July.

Founded in 1904, the Connecticut Junior Republic (CJR) provides care, treatment, education and family support for at-risk, special needs and troubled young people so they can become productive and fulfilled members of their homes, schools and communities. Today, the organization's combined programs serve approximately 1,000 boys and girls annually in nine locations throughout Connecticut.

The Junior Republic conducts a residential program for court-referred young men on its Litchfield campus. Special, vocational and alternative education programs are provided for boys from communities throughout Connecticut in this location through CJR's Cable Academic and Vocational Education Center. Transition and related services are also provided.

CJR also provides residential care for boys at its group homes in East Hartford and Winchester and short-term, residential crisis intervention for girls at its Center for Assessment, Respite and Enrichment (CARE) in Waterbury. A broad spectrum of prevention, early intervention, family support, and intensive home-based services, and aftercare, are provided for boys and girls through CJR's offices in Danbury, Meriden, New Britain, Torrington and Waterbury (two sites).

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A private charitable organization, the Connecticut Junior Republic is accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA) and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). CJR is supported by gifts from individuals, businesses and organizations, and through service contracts funded by the Court Support Services Division (CSSD) of the Connecticut Judicial Branch, the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS), and by Connecticut's public schools. For further information, please contact Hedy Barton, Director of Development and Public Relations (860) 567-9423, extension 252; or by email: [hbarton@cjryouth.org](mailto:hbarton@cjryouth.org).