

CT Voices for Children held their 2017 “First for Kids Awards” Thursday November 9, 2017

The event recognized three individuals whose tireless work of advocacy have advanced causes for the state’s most vulnerable citizens.



One of the honored recipients was **VINCENT ESPINO**, who not only represents the Waterbury Office & DCF Region 5 on the statewide Youth Advisory Board, but also he represents the entire state of Connecticut on the New England Youth Coalition.

*“Every kid has a story...
it’s up to us to listen.”
V Espino*

Vincent was recognized for his leadership in youth-driven foster care reform, his work across multiple youth coalitions, his active mentorship of young adults, his partnership with Connecticut Voices for Children and his independent advocacy.

His voice has helped to advance the rights of youth in care in support of a more normal childhood and adolescence. Vincent is a role model for other young people serviced in the foster care system. He wants to work towards being the norm rather than the exception.



This very special event was attended by Vincent’s family as well demonstrating the importance of maintaining family connections.



Vincent is a senior at Western CT State University studying social work.

We are very proud of you Vincent and **WE HEAR YOU LOUD & CLEAR...**