

# Helping Children Thrive: A Handbook for Grassroots Regional Collaboration

Kathleen O'Bieme MCEC Board Member, Chair – Parent Initiatives

The Community Coalition for Children is proud to announce the publication of our new handbook, *Helping Children Thrive: A Handbook for Grassroots Regional Collaboration*. After hearing from our nationally renowned speakers over the years that we are “the model” for community-wide efforts focused on children and that we “should write the book,” we decided that it was a fine way to celebrate our tenth anniversary.

The coalition is a consortium of regional school districts, independent and magnet schools, hospitals, colleges, and social service agencies in eastern Connecticut. This is the same region that won MCEC's first Pete Taylor Partnership Award for its Military-Superintendents Liaison Committee work. We have learned that collaboration is not only cost effective, but it enables us to bring nationally significant speakers to our community to bring practical solutions to issues that impact us all — community leaders, educators, parents, and students themselves.

No matter what the focus of your grassroots organization might be, this handbook is a shortcut to event planning (complete with checklists), mission/goals/objectives, bylaws, 501 (c) (3) issues, public relations strategies, etc. Templates are provided on the CD at the back of the book so that you can manipulate them for your organization's needs. There is no sense in re-inventing the wheel, when you could get on with what you are passionate about.

Written by Cathy Bokoff, a founder of the coalition, and published by Kathleen O'Beirne (a member of MCEC's board of directors), this handbook has the enthusiastic support of Dr. Michael J. Bradley, author of *Yes, Your Teen is Crazy!* and the sequel, *Yes, Your Parents are Crazy!*

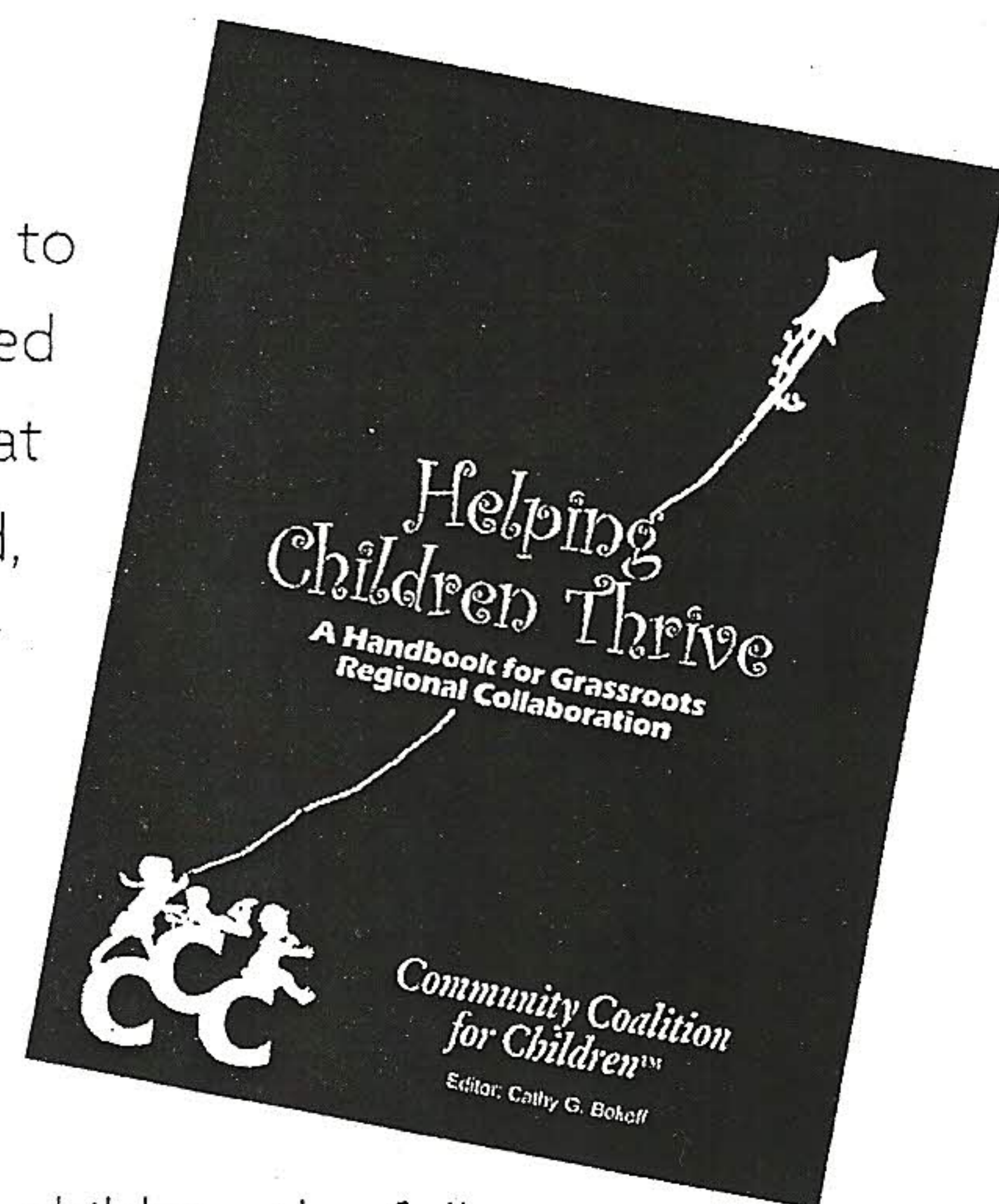
Every cop, every judge, every shrink

will tell you that their power to help kids is miniscule compared to the incredible power that rises up out of concerned, active communities. Without that magic, little is possible. With it, nothing is impossible. I know about that awesome power because I've seen it first hand in the work of

the Community Coalition for children, the folks who've created this handbook. If magic can be packaged and replicated, then here it is.

The practical, effective, and efficient suggestions shared by the Community Coalition for Children are a gift to this nation.

Please go to CCC's website, to view the tables of contents and templates, so that you can see the scope of the document: [www.communitycoalitionforchildren.org](http://www.communitycoalitionforchildren.org)



by Megan, Grade 4 • EA White Elementary • Fort Benning, GA

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