



Infocus

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CRT Golf Tournament Classic 2006

“Keep Meals on Wheels Rolling”

Community Renewal Team, Inc. held its 5th Annual Golf Classic at the Tunxis Plantation Golf Course in Farmington on September 15, 2006. The tournament was a great success and was marked by the return of ING as the Title Sponsor. The money raised will be used to support the CRT “Meals on Wheels” Program, which provides nutritious food to 1,400 frail homebound elders in Connecticut each day. We have received compliments from golfers, volunteers, the Tunxis Golf Club and our sponsors who said that this was one of the best tournaments ever.



Thank you to all of the committee members and to the many volunteers from a variety of CRT programs who gave of their time to assist on the day of the tournament.

Over 130 golfers began their day with a great round of golf. The day ended with a delicious dinner and an awards ceremony and was filled with camaraderie, laughter and healthy competition. The tournament featured a scramble format, and the contests included the longest drive, closest to the pin, double or nothing and a hole-in-one opportunity.

CRT sponsorship of the golf tournament benefits the “Meals on Wheels” program. National statistics show that 2.5 million elderly Americans suffer from food insecurity, and it is estimated that today, millions of elderly Americans are hungry or worried about where their next meal will come from. “Meals on Wheels” serves nutritious meals each day to our elderly community, and helps them remain healthy while maintaining their independence. CRT’s Nutrition Department includes 17 drivers and over 150 volunteers who prepare the meals, and drive them to the clients homes and communities.



Applicants must be 60 years of age or older, or the spouse of an elderly participant. The “Meals on Wheels” program consist of two meals per day which are delivered five days a week, 52 weeks a year to homebound elderly residents or to congregate meal sites. Meals are prepared according to a diet order from the client’s physician.

RSVP Volunteers at Harriet Beecher Stowe Center

The Greater Hartford & Mid-State RSVP recently signed up a new volunteer station in Hartford. The Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, an important historic site in Hartford, will now be an RSVP site. RSVP volunteers Josi Klein and Wendy Klecak and another volunteer, Sally Cummings met with Cheryl Fuentes (RSVP Program Coordinator) and Rob Fuoco, garden designer at the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, for an orientation.



The new RSVP volunteers will be helping to maintain the Victorian gardens at the Center. The volunteers will be helping to weed, dead-head, feed the plants, and do some raking. For their hard work, Mr. Fuoco promised that they would be able to get some plants from the gardens to take home for their own gardens. CRT’s RSVP program has 650 volunteers who work at 70 different stations, from schools to Bradley Airport.

Front left to back:
Sally Cummings, Wendy Klecak, Rob Fuoco, Josi Klein

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Infocus is a bi-monthly newsletter for employees and supporters of the Community Renewal Team. To suggest a story or submit a photo, please contact Connie Rose at 560-5637 or email me at rosec@crtct.org.

Spotlight

Program of the Month

Early Care & Education

READING IS FUNDAMENTAL DAY!! “Celebrating Family Literacy at ECE”

Hundreds of CRT’s preschool children met celebrities, enjoyed funny and touching stories, and took home books “of their very own” on October 18, which was the first RIF Day of the new school year. The RIF Family of Readers Program is a family reading program that currently serves over 158,000 children and their parents across the country, focusing on educationally at-risk children, from birth through elementary school, and their families. For several years, CRT has participated in RIF, which is one of the oldest literacy program in the United States.



Family of Readers helps parents develop the skills and self-assurance to take a leading role in supporting their children’s reading and learning while their children learn to love books.

Program Goals:

- * Improve family reading habits and enhance the time that families spend sharing books with their young children.
- * Promote parents’ confidence in themselves as participants in their children’s education.
- * Foster supportive relationships among parents who face similar challenges.
- * Encourage Family of Readers’ advisors to become effective facilitators for the parents they serve.

Over the course of the program, parents learn about children’s books and participate in skills workshops on such topics as how to read aloud to children. The RIF grant, matched by local dollars, provides more than 4,000 illustrated storybooks each year. CRT’s first RIF Day of the program year provided an opportunity for celebrities from all walks of life to read to the children in our centers. This year, we were fortunate to have Hadassah Lieberman, Annie Lamont and Elissa Voccola representing the Lieberman, Lamont and Schlesinger campaigns, Ted and Buz Lamont (Ned’s parents), State Senator Eric Coleman and State Representative Gail Hamm among the volunteers. Our guests had as much fun as the children and all walked away with a great sense about the great service CRT provided to the community. The program occurs three times each year; if you would like to volunteer as a reader call Nancy Shapiro at 560-5671.



HSI Tips (Human Service Infrastructure)

Early Care & Education Programs:	Early Care & Education Programs: Head Start, School Readiness and Infant and Toddlers Child Care 560-5401 or 560-5565
Who the Program Serves:	Children three to five years of age and live in Bloomfield, Clinton, Hartford, Middletown, Portland & Windsor.
Income Guidelines:	150% of the poverty level.
Other Criteria:	10% of the families may be over income and at least 10% of enrollment most include children with special needs.
Program Synopsis:	Comprehensive Early Childhood program for children and families. These programs support cognitive abilities, reading, language, mathematics, social & emotional competence, motor development, and physical health. These programs include: Infant & Toddler Day Care, Head Start & School Readiness.
Documentation Needed:	Income Tax Forms, W-2 Form, Unemployment Compensation (if applicable), Birth Certificate of child, Social Security number for child and parent.

News & Notes - Did You Know?

Congratulations to Burns ECE staff for earning their national accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Congratulations to Bloomfield ECE staff for earning their national accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Congratulations the East Hartford Community Shelter staff in a job well done with their DSS audit. The verbal report that we received was “Excellent”. Blanca Lopez the DSS Auditor was very impressed with the case files and the work that the staff has accomplished with shelter clients. She reported, “it is the best she has seen since auditing the East Hartford Shelter”.

The Summer Lunch Program in Middletown received a large donation from Books to Dreams, including more than 50 books, bookmarks and 50 stuffed animals for the children to take home; and assorted center-based activities such as games, puzzles, paint/ coloring books, and videos. The Middletown Lunch Program sends a heart felt thank you to Books to Dreams for their donation.



For the first time, CRT is partnering with Habitat for Humanity to improve access to this program for CRT staff and clients. The mission of Habitat for Humanity is to eliminate substandard housing by building homes in partnership with prospective homeowners, churches, businesses, schools, civic clubs, professional associations and government. CRT is very fortunate to have established one of these partnerships.

On January 27, 2007, CRT will hold an Applicant Information Meeting in the Lumsden Center where prospective applicants can learn about the program and review the requirements.

Eligibility Criteria:

Applicants must make a down payment equal to 1% of the cost of the house, and must have the ability to pay the mortgage, property taxes, property insurance and a set aside for deferred maintenance (no profit, no interest). In addition, they must commit to contributing a minimum of 150 hours building houses with Habitat.

CRT has application packets available for community members, staff and clients. Financial literacy staff will assist with this project. If you are interested in participating in this wonderful project, please contact Andrea Hardy at 560-4210 or Steve Gosselin at 560-4663 for applications and assistance in the preparation. Please note that a completed application does not guarantee that you will be selected for participation since there are usually 80 applications for the 20 homes that are built in one of two cycles per year.



This is a wonderful opportunity. If you, a client or one of your family members or friends is interested, please plan to attend the January 27 meeting.

Coventry Place

On a brisk autumn day in September, CRT officially cut the ribbon and held Grand Opening ceremonies for Coventry Place. This new senior housing project is designed to help lower-income elderly reside safely in their own communities. Funded by the federal department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Coventry Place offers 30 one-bedroom



handicapped accessible or adaptable apartments for those who are 62 or older, with an income of not more than 50% of area median income.

Coventry Place was previously the Mediplex of Greater Hartford Nursing Home, which closed about five years ago. The building was recently acquired by Meadows Real Estate Management and Development Corporation, an affiliate of Community Renewal Team, Inc. The rehab was designed by architect Brandon Clarke of Clarke Architects LLC and construction was executed by Enterprise Builders of Newington.

Residents will pay 30% of their income as rent, with the remaining residential costs covered by HUD. CRT is bringing in elder programming and case management to support residents' independence. The Resident Coordinator will assist residents with obtaining all resources for which they are eligible, including SSI, ConnPace, Medicaid, Medicare, etc. Through the CRT Homemaker Program, residents who are referred from the state Department of Social Services can access light housekeeping services. The Coordinator will also make referrals to CRT's other services, such as Meals on Wheels (delivered to the apartment); Senior Community Cafés, where lunches are served in a social setting; RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program); and the new Behavioral Health Service, located directly across the street. Seniors will also be directed to non-CRT services available in Bloomfield and Hartford.

Space has been provided for health and blood pressure screenings, podiatry services, etc., which will be offered by outside service providers. Congregate areas will include an Activity Room; Lounge with Computer Learning Lab; Library; and Hobby Room. To make inquires regarding an apartment call DeMarco Management Company at (860) 951-9411.

Join CRT & The State of Connecticut to Quit Smoking

The Community Renewal Team has been awarded a grant from the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health in order to develop and implement a Tobacco Free Lifestyles Program. The program will help encourage people not to start smoking or use tobacco, and encourage those who are smoking or using tobacco to quit.

Victoria Pavasaris joins CRT as the new Tobacco Free Lifestyles Specialist. She has a BA in Psychology and Marketing from CCSU and is now a graduate student in Education at the University of Hartford. Victoria was successful in her own battle to quit smoking and is enthusiastic in bringing tobacco free lifestyles messages to the staff and clients of CRT. Her office is at 8 Stonington Street, where she works with Judith Vazquez and Jose Vega as a part of the prevention team at CRT that now includes Yvonne Patterson, HIV prevention specialist. CRT will soon be hiring an alcohol prevention specialist to address issues related to under age drinking.

CRT is grateful to the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health for giving us the opportunity to help prevent individuals from starting tobacco use and to help link individuals who want to quit smoking with help in the community.

Victoria will soon be visiting many service sites of CRT in order to establish programs for tobacco free living. She will be coordinating the CRT billboard campaign on tobacco free living. Please call 560-5790 in order to meet Victoria!



To nominate a colleague for the employee of the month, please contact CRT's Human Resources Department at (860) 560-5665



May
Dean Mitchell,
Driver
Nutrition Department



June
India Rodgers
Clinical Social Worker,
Forensic Services Housing

Natalie Vázquez, is the daughter of Judith Vázquez, CRT's Director of Housing Services. Natalie is 11 years old and has always dreamed about being a fashion designer, model and cheerleader. Since the age of six Natalie has been a cheerleader for the Vernon Vipers as a "flyer" and her team won second place in the regional competition.

Natalie also tried out for the "Twisters" cheerleading squad. This team competes at Regional and National levels. She made the team and is currently going through extensive training.

Natalie was recently selected to participate in the Miss National American Pageant.

In her spare time she designs outfits and has a very extensive selection in her portfolio Natalie is not only a cheerleader and pageant contestant she also has the intelligence to go with all of her talents. Natalie entered middle school this year and has made Honors and High Honors throughout the year.

I would like to congratulate Natalie for winning first prize in Casual Modeling Competition at the Westin in Stamford, CT. She has now joined the John Casablancas agency.

WINNERS OF SAFETY SLOGAN CONTEST

SEPTEMBER

1st Place - \$200 CRT BUCKS

Workplace Safety begins with you, please be cautious and work by the rules. by Bridget Smith

2nd - 2 way tie - \$100 CRT BUCKS

Don't fall down on the job! by Effie Brown

Better Safe than Sorry! by Wilhemina Jefferson

3rd - \$50 CRT BUCKS

Safety First, Last, and Always! by Paula Wright

4th 3-way tie - \$20 CRT BUCKS

Proper workplace safety requires constant awareness and personal desire! by Bridget Smith

It would be nicer if I didn't cut my finger on the slicer!

by Ian Mungo

Be Slick, Don't Slip! by Wilhemina Jefferson

OCTOBER

1st Place - \$200 CRT BUCKS

A Spill, A Slip, A Hospital Trip, Think Safety First
by Gladys Maldonado

2nd Place - \$100 CRT BUCKS

Slips and Falls Hurt Us All by Edwina Edwards

3rd - \$50 CRT BUCKS

You Be Good and Work Safe Like You Should
by Lewis Walker

4th Place - \$20 CRT BUCKS

Don't Slip or Trip by Lewis Walker

Congratulations to all the Winners!!! Everyone who entered a slogan will also receive \$10 CRT Bucks for each entry!!!

The following is a letter we received from Gwen Eaddy, a former Head Start parent and chairperson of the Policy Council. Whenever you are tired or having a really bad day, please take a moment to read this inspirational story as a reminder as to why you have chosen to work in the field of Human Services.

Good Evening Everyone: If you go to Springfield College website and click on the link look at picture number 20. You will see a 40 yr old Black woman w/ 4 children (me- Gwen Eaddy) able to finish college with a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services because community support services were made available based on the fact that my economic status was well below poverty level.

I could not have finished college with out the support services of the Head Start Program, Food Stamp program, Section 8 program, WIC program, Medicaid and other support services. Agencies such as these have empowered me to leave out of a domestic violence situation and focus on me and my family and this is the end result.

Actually it's the beginning. I took my law school exam last year and am presently working on law school applications focusing on children and families rights.

I have sent my resume out and my responses are good enough to lean toward first time home ownership with the help of the Meriden Housing Authority Family Self Sufficiency program. A program that helps rebuilds credit and teaches financial management to lean toward self-sufficiency.

Now one might ask, why would I discuss my personal business? It is important for state, local officials and community action agencies to know that their support and services are working and please do not generalize and stereotype low-income communities.

If the mentality of many decision makers does not change, continual State & Federal funding cuts will severely cripple many support services such as Head Start and school readiness programs, as well as parental involvement programs, Health Care, Child Care, mental health services and the list goes on.

Please consider this a success story the next time decision makers are at the chopping block of funding sources.

Please give high-risk communities the resources and services they need to become tax payers and productive working class citizens living comfortably above the poverty level.

In the long run..It pays off..Believe me.. Thanks to everyone that supported me to obtain a higher education thus improving the quality of life for my children and me.

▼ New Employees

Welcome to the CRTeam! We would like to welcome Valerie Taylor and Annie Sibley to CRT and the Human Resources Department team. Valerie Taylor has brought a vast experience in building programs that promote personal growth for all levels of employees; she will oversee the Training and Development Program of CRT. All CRT employees will have access to training that will allow them to broaden their horizons and take advantage of opportunities for growth within CRT. Our other team member is Annie Sibley who was recently an Employment Specialist with the Food Stamp program. Prior to that Annie was a Human Resource Generalist at Napier Company. For fun she has worked as a sales associate and trainer with Lord& Taylor for the past 17 years. Annie loves the fact that CRT offers so many services to help people make their lives better.

Behavioral Health

Kevin Asp
Shelby E. Brewer
Stacey Gonzalez
David Macey
Rose Ellen Persico
Phillip Derosier
Kimberly Hardy
Deborah C. Kovall
Scott A. Wissler
Wynsdey D. Pitt

East Hartford Shelter

Kynosha S. Drayton
Ebony T. Jackson
Samuel L. Johnson
Joyce E. King

Energy & Weatherization

Nadia De La Puente

ECE

Maria Ruiz
Theresa Thompson
Michelle Chung
Justin Mauldin
Mayra E. Pino
Yakelin B. Dobrich
Kathleen Snow
Alejandra Corvalan
Madeline Burgos
Liss Joanis Rivera
Ann M. Crosby

Enfield AIC

Cynthia Oates

Finance

Alexander P. Pestana

Fresh Start

Sherry D. Frazier
Destiny Gore
Sandra Jefferson
Yanike Whittingham

Fresh Start Housing

Catherine Barber
Patrice Duffus

Homemaker

Angelo DiCicco

Human Resources

Valerie Taylor
Annie Sibley

Meadows

Deborah A. Jack

Milford AIC

Sabine Dufreny
Sinseara Fraser

Neighborhood Services

Hawanya N'Neka Kershaw
Rebecca Poku
Felicia A. Frasier
Luis Alberto Escalera

Nutrition

Bridget A. Sutherland
Jerry Collins
Michael Malone
Sheridan Douglass
Sandra D. Kucza
Raymond Paul Cote
Marilyn L. Legg
Jacquelyn Petrisco

Nutrition-Middletown

Francesca S. Spivey
Kahlil Daniels
William Mayfield
Michael Weidig

Planning

Jeremy A. Walter

Supportive Housing

Patricia L. Dixon
Eric Richards

The Retreat

Ramon Arroyo
Bertrand Bard
Timothy P. Foote
Jeffrey Gonzalez
Lisa McMullen
Khetawana She Shaba
Murphy
Anthony Vecchitto

Youth Services

Spencer Pitt
Bewry S. Myrton

OPEN ENROLLMENT - Once again it is that time of the year when we head into the holiday season... and, almost as much fun, open enrollment for our medical and dental insurance plans. It may seem as scary as Halloween but this year we hope to make it like a day at the beach. Eligible employees will be provided information concerning their benefits at the end of November and have until December 31, 2006 to submit changes.

As a reminder we ask that if you have moved, changed your name, phone number or any other personal information that you please contact Human Resources. This information is used to locate your point of contact in the event of an emergency or to forward important records such as W-2 tax forms.

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER SAFETY POSTER CONTEST:

- * Poster should be no larger than 14"x17
- * Put your name, dept. date and phone # on the back of your poster.
- * Enter as many posters as you like through your Safety Rep.

FUN SCIENCE FACTS

1. Diamonds are the hardest substance known to man.
2. The Stegosaurus dinosaur measured up to 30 feet long but had a brain the size of a walnut.
3. If you could drive to the sun- at 55 miles per hour- it would take about 193 years.
4. Just twenty seconds worth of fuel remained when Apollo 11's lunar module landed on the moon.

CT Laws for Advanced Directives have changed since October 1, 2006

The Retreat and Attorney Sharon Pope of Dillman & Pope Law Office invites the CRT staff to the workshop: Advanced Directives. The workshop will including information regarding Living Wills, Designating a Health Care Representative to make health care decisions on one's behalf and Anatomical Gifts (donation of organs). Atty. Pope will describe the changes and how to make sure you're prepared in case of a health care emergency.

Date: January 30, 2007 -- Snow Date: February 6, 2007
Location: The Retreat, 90 Retreat Avenue, Hartford
Time: 7:00 pm (either day)

Community Renewal Team, Inc.
 555 Windsor Street
 Hartford, CT 06120-2418

December Birthdays

Diaz, Santa	01	Quinonez, Maria	08	Stewart, Wesley	13	Diaz, Dennise	21
Gomez, Santa I.	01	Ortiz, Thelma L.	09	Roundtree, Anjaknie	14	Williams, Monique L.	21
Brown, Lokia	03	Bell, Albert	10	Tymoszczuk, Justyna	14	Grant, Earlene	22
Velazquez, Virgilio	03	Cuascut, Andrea	10	Walker, Lewis	14	Smith, Bridget	22
Bernard, Claudine M.	04	Hernandez, Cesareo	10	Jimenez, Maria	16	Derosier, Phillip	23
Davis, Teresa N.	04	Juda-Karner, Lynda	10	Michele, Maria	16	Bates, Felisha	25
Walters, David B.	04	Griffin, Eugenia	11	Parker, Walter	16	Bowen, Lawrence E.	27
Dawes, Zephline	05	Lopez, Virginia	11	Oliveras, Ivette	17	Castillo, Rafaela	27
Parker, Maryellen	06	Arroyo, Ramon	12	Barber, Catherine	19	Bell, Wanda	28
Donato, Carmen D.	07	Sotomayor, Mayra	12	Hamilton, Tracy A.	19	Green, Sabrina A.	29
Sastre, Carian	07	Edwards, Edwina	13	Hunt, William	19	Vazquez, Carmen G.	29
Stephenson, Kaijuana	07	Grant, Nakisha	13	Baez, Daisy	20	Galloway, Dean	30
Coleman, Jonathan W.	08	Rodriguez, Minerva	13	Nolan, Gladys E.	20	Speller, Glanda	30

January Birthdays

Ferguson, Ellen	01	Escalera, Luis Alberto	07	Stavola, Leticia	13	Skeete, Frances T.	22
Fuentes, Cheryl	01	Rodgers, Carlo A.	07	Alvarado, Yvette	14	Hernandez, Jacqueline	23
Hussein, Abdiaziz	01	Aiken, Janie	08	Darveau, Miriam	14	Perez, Esther	24
Sarferaz, Rayan		Montalvo, Marilyn	08	Torres, Nancy G.	14	Karsky, Edith	25
Abdul Rahman	01	Reyes, Lucy	08	Deas, Danny	15	Cevan, Maryanna K.	26
Tennie, Cora	01	Sierra, Migdalia	08	McIntosh, Marjorie	15	Coleman, Glenn	27
Rivera, Luz D	02	Pagan, Roselyn	09	Brown, Sonia H.	16	Monahan, Kimberly A.	27
Roane, Julia	02	Woodard, Daniel J.	09	King, Janice E.	16	Wierzbicki, John A.	27
Cummings, Carlene	03	Lowrie, Gwendolyn	10	Zuk, Mary K.	16	Crosby, Ann M.	28
Johnson, Lynn	03	Murray, Monica	10	Jefferson, Gladys	17	Cruz, Alejita	28
Macey, David	03	Anderson, Shirley	11	Mauldin, Justin	17	McCall, Randy	29
Perez, Waleska	03	Fowler, Carmen R.	11	Santiago, Vanessa	17	Robinson, Barbara	29
Toro, Louise	03	Peterson, Carla	11	Corvalan, Alejandra	18	Medlin, Michael	30
Johnson, Martha	04	Rosemond, Belinda J.	11	Fiall, Donald	18	Moreno, Denise	30
Payne, Gregory K	04	Smalling, Cecilia	11	Prebish, Alice	18	Vega, Madeline	30
Ketner, David	05	Powell, Maxine H.	12	Rios, Maria A.	20	Acevedo, Carmen L.	31
McGurk, Barry	05	Brathwaite, Mary	13	Wright-Weidman, Joan	20	Johnson, Janis L.	31
Williams-Reynolds,		Kovall, Deborah C.	13	Drayton, Kynosha S.	21	Rivera, Magda	31
Kimothy D.	06	Rohena, Enid Yolanda	13	Maiese, Michelle	22		

The Community Renewal Team, Inc. was formed in 1963 and is one of oldest Community Action Agency in the country. We provide a range of anti-poverty programs that help people become self-sufficient, including Early Care and Education; Meals on Wheels and meals at senior centers; criminal justice programs; affordable assisted living for seniors; neighborhood-based outreach; positive youth development; energy and weatherization assistance; employment and training; substance abuse and mental health services; emergency shelters and supportive housing. CRT is Connecticut's largest Community Action Agency.

InFocus is the bi-monthly newsletter for CRT employees, trustees, and volunteers.

Please submit information or story ideas to InFocus at 555 Windsor St., Hartford, CT, 06120-2418, or email to Cornelia Rose at rosec@crct.org, phone (860) 560-5637.

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