



Infocus

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Grandfamily Housing Development Holds Open House for Families



With the first Grandfamily Housing Development building scheduled to open soon, CRT staff has been working with the city of Hartford to recruit families to move into the facility. More than 75 people attended the first Open House which provided an informational meeting at the Salvation Army on Nelson Street in Hartford. The meeting was followed by a tour of one of the new apartments. The positive response to the project was overwhelming and more than 35 prospective tenants took applications.

If you are a grandparent with legal custody of your grandchildren or know of someone who may be interested, please contact Raquel Rivera at Broad Park Development Corporation at 249-0649.



CRT Annual Report Wins First Prize!!

Each year, the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) sponsors the Mercury Awards Competition that recognizes outstanding work in the public relations, communications and marketing professions. The awards are designed to honor creative and strategic excellence and to encourage a higher level of performance in the field. CRT is pleased to announce that our 2006 Annual Report, created and designed by Nancy Pappas and Maria Cheema is the first prize winner in the Non-Profit Annual Report category. "The Faces Behind the Figures" is a real example of the excellence that is CRT and we are pleased to congratulate Maria and Nancy for their fine work.

The award was presented by the former anchor of NBC 30, Janet Peckinpugh on June 7th at Anthony's Ocean View in New Haven.



INSIDE...	Community Life Skills	Page 2	Every Smile Counts	Page 3
	Upcoming Events	Page 2	Adkins Life Skills	Page 4
	CRT Cruise	Page 3	HR Corner	Page 5
	Welfare to Work	Page 3		
	Summer Lunch	Page 3		
			Bristol AIC Open House	Page 3

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 560-5456 or email me at rosec@crtct.org.

Program of the Month Spotlight

Community Life Skills

Community Life Skills Matches Basketball Skills With DCF

The CRT Youth Service Department "Community Life Skills Class", challenged the DCF Social Workers to a basketball game on June 26, 2007 at Bulkeley High School. DCF won the basketball game, however, everyone was a winner. The Youth



demonstrated excellent athletic skills and good sportsmanship. Jonathan Felix, Miles England, Hector Ayla, Chris Ryan and Shakyra Brown had never played together, however, their teamwork and the passion they have for the game surprised DCF. The score was very close from start to finish. By popular

request the game was recorded and was shown at the Graduation. All had a great time and in the near future the two will meet again for the bowling tournament.

Youth Services Graduation

On July 12th, 2007, the Community Life Skills Class graduated. The class met twice a week for twenty-one weeks. The participants were taught the life skills needed to help prepare them for the transition from foster homes to independent/semi Independent living. Classes included Money Management, Employment, Health, Consumer Awareness, Legal, Interpersonal Skills and Community Awareness. Of the



twenty nine youth that graduated the program, 25% also graduated high school. One hundred percent of the high school graduates will pursue higher learning in college or trade school. The classes were facilitated by Marilyn Williams and Tyeshia Saffold. We would also like to thank all the wonderful CRT/DCF/DOC staff who took time to facilitate a lesson or provide support to our program. They include: Pat Walker, Tyrone Canino, Saundra Dos Reis and Felisha Bates.

Eric Carver, Carlos Toro, Henry Brown, Libby Gray, Anthony Geigeland, Noel Casiano and Sharon Dunn. A special thanks to Nancy Shapiro for getting the class the T-Shirts for the basketball game.

HSI Tips (Human Service Infrastructure)

Community Life Skills:	The Community Life Skills Program is a 5 month curriculum based life skills training program. The program is for DCF committed adolescents transitioning to independent living.
Who the Program Serves:	Must be a DCF committed youth between the ages of 15-19.
Guidelines:	Must be referred by a DCF Social Worker.
Program Synopsis:	The life skills curriculum consists of topics such as: money management, health, food management, emergency and safety skills, job seeking and retention skills and leisure skills.
For Additional Information:	395 Wethersfield Avenue, Hartford (860) 560-5377

CRT Celebrates Two Upcoming Great Events

September will be a busy month at CRT as we celebrate our success with two fundraising events. The first event is the **Second Annual Pre-Concert Event featuring Genesis** that will be held at the Hartford Civic Center on September 16th. The event will feature a cocktail reception and live auction followed by tickets to the Genesis concert.

The second event will be our **Sixth Annual "Meals on Wheels" Golf Tournament** that will be held at Gillette Ridge Golf Club on Thursday, September 20. There will be prizes, contests and a full day of golf for all who participate.

If you would like to arrange to participate in either one or both of these events through payroll deduction please contact the Development Office at 560-5471 or 560-5456 or e-mail nancys@crtct.org.

Community Renewal Team, Inc. PRESENTS ITS FAMILY FUN CRUISE

7 Days of Fun Cruising the Southern Caribbean Aboard the Carnival Cruise Ship "Destiny"
Date: DECEMBER 2, 2007

Price Includes:	Cruise	Itinerary:	Barbados
Air (Bradley International)	All Meals & Entertainment	San Juan	St. Lucia
Transfers	All Taxes	St. Thomas	Antigua
		Dominica	At Sea

Booking Contact: Effie Brown, CRT (860) 560-5605 or Caribbean Travel Agency: (860) 242-1988

CRT Sponsors Baseball Team

CRT is the proud sponsor of a team of nine and ten year olds who are participating in the Roberto Clemente Little League program this summer. The program held its opening day on Saturday, June 23rd at Hyland Park in Hartford. Please contact the Development Office at 560-5456, if you would like the team schedule.



Welfare to Work Clients Graduate

CRT, Middlesex Community College, the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce and Middletown Adult Education formed a unique collaboration that was funded by the Workforce Alliance. The program provided twenty two weeks of training to thirteen welfare to work clients, all of whom graduated with certificates in banking or nursing assistance.

In addition to their regular coursework, participants received life skills training from Len Piexotto of the Middletown office. Because of the huge success of the program, George Brusznicki, Director of Middlesex Services, plans to replicate the program in the future.



CRT's Bristol Alternative to Incarceration Open House

On June 29, 2007, The Bristol Alternative Incarceration Center held an open house. Employees of the Judicial System, Court Support Services Division, Bristol Community Organizations, Community Renewal Team, and Bristol AIC clients were invited to attend. Lunch was served and people from different agencies had the opportunity to meet and to discuss client services.

The B.A.I.C. staff gave presentations illustrating the different services offered by the agency. Case Managers, Katie Stebbins and James Parker, explained the intake and monitoring procedures. The Employment Specialist, Daniel Dyson, reviewed the employment acquisition process. Court Liaison, Miriam Darvaeu, discussed the referral process. Intervention Specialists, Dale Ellenbogen and Daniel Lovallo, described the Treating All Dependencies and Reasoning and Rehabilitation groups. Community Service Coordinator, Jean Dalomba, discussed the community service component. A Bristol AIC client also spoke about the positive impact the AIC staff had on his life.

The high point of the afternoon came when Program Manager, Elizabeth Angelillo presented Daniel Dyson with the Employee of the Year Award. Dan has been a tremendous asset to the Bristol AIC and has made significant contributions to the success of the agency.

The open house gave many of us in Forensic Services a chance to meet the people with whom we have been working with and speaking to only over the telephone. All of us are looking forward to this event next year.

CRT's Summer Lunch Program Is Off to A Great Start

The city of Middletown joined CRT, the Middlesex Coalition for Children and End Hunger Connecticut! at a press conference on Hunger Awareness Day to bring attention to our Summer Lunch Program. The program opened on June 25 and will provide free lunch at several sites in Middletown to eligible children who generally receive free lunch during the school year. The program will continue throughout the summer and is designed to fill the gap that exists during summer recess from school.



Every Smile Counts

Three CRT Early Care and Education centers—Simpson Waverly, Locust, and Parker—were recently awarded Certificates of Appreciation by Governor Jodi Rell for their participation in the “Every Smile Counts” project. The project, which was conducted by the State Department of Public Health in collaboration with the Department of Education during fall 2006, sought to determine the need for additional dental programs, interventions, and to describe the oral health of Connecticut's children. Survey results have yet to be published.

Oral disease, specifically dental decay, is the most common chronic childhood disease, five times more common than asthma. It can become evident in children with an increase in absenteeism, lack of concentration, inability to eat, decreased school performance, and poor social relationships. CRT is collaborating with the UConn Dental School, the Connecticut Children Medical Center, Community Health Services, and the Community Health Center in Middletown to prevent oral disease and provide better oral health to CRT children.

HOUSE FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

1. Ensure your house is equipped with an adequate number of smoke detectors.
2. Test the smoke detector monthly by pushing the test button.
3. Replace the battery annually, or when the alarm chirps, warning that the battery is low.
4. Make sure your house number is easily visible from the street so emergency vehicles can find you.
5. Post emergency phone numbers near telephones.
6. Make sure everyone knows how to stop, drop, and roll if clothes catch fire.
7. Develop a fire escape plan and practice it at least twice a year.
8. Choose a safe meeting place a safe distance from your home.
9. Install an ABC rated fire extinguisher in your home.
10. Keep an extra key near exits with deadlocks.
11. Always have electrical repairs, alterations or renovations done by a qualified/licensed electrician.
12. Avoid overloading outlets.
13. Do not store combustibles in closed areas or near a heat source.
14. Always use a fire screen with an open fire.
15. Keep heaters away from clothes, curtains, and furniture.
16. Keep matches and cigarette lighters out of children's reach.
17. Clean the filter of your clothes dryer after each load.

For more information to go: www.firstaid911.com

Adkins Life Skills Training Program Brings Help to CRT Clients

More than thirty years ago, Winthrop and Caroline Adkins were seeking an innovative approach to employability training that would change the motivation and help involve poor people in planning for their future. At that time, both were college professors working at Columbia University in New York, conducting research to develop a program that would start with self-assessment and involve economically disadvantaged and under-served youth and adults in planning for their future.



The Adkins Life Skills Program makes use of a unique four-stage learning model which integrates counseling and teaching methods and structures the sessions to maximize learning power. It makes use of proven learning principles and adapts them specifically for educationally disadvantaged learners. Video, a powerful learning tool, is used to pose problems, model solutions, present emotionally laden material, track new behaviors and provide feedback. Audio CDs are provided for most written material for the client with limited reading ability. The small group is used effectively to provide a dynamic learning environment where students can share ideas and doubts without fear of ridicule or punishment. The many learning activities—modeling tapes, role-plays, games, simulations, guides to inquiry—are used in a sequence that maximize learning.

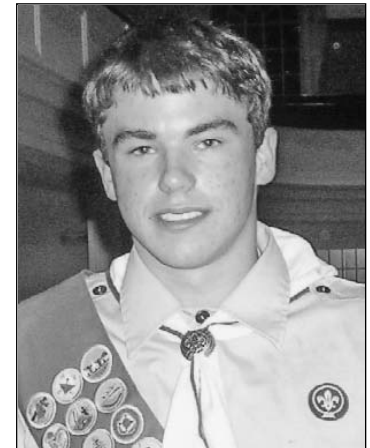


Recently, Drs. Winthrop and Caroline Adkins brought their model to CRT, working with George Brusznicki and his staff to provide them with an intensive staff training program that would assist them in helping CRT clients. So many of our clients are characterized by poor work history, lack of education and low self-esteem, yet many of them possess strengths they are unaware of including motivation and marketable abilities.

The program has helped more than 2 million people to achieve job success and career advancement and has succeeded where other models have failed. CRT is fortunate to have enlisted the help of Drs. Winthrop and Caroline Adkins in offering this unique approach to helping our clients.

FUN FACTS

1. The Earth weighs 6.6 sextillion tons, or 5.97×10^{24} kg.
2. The Earth's average velocity orbiting the sun is 107,220 km per hour.
3. The longest living cells in the body are brain cells which can live an entire lifetime.
4. The hottest planet in our solar system is Venus, with an estimated surface temp. of 864 F (462 C).
5. The cosmos contains approximately 50,000,000,000 galaxies.
6. If you could drive to the sun — at 55 miles per hour — it would take about 193 years
7. The planet Saturn has a density lower than water. So, if placed in water it would float.
8. It takes 70% less energy to produce a ton of paper from recycled paper than from trees.
9. According to an old English system of time units, a moment is one and a half minutes.
10. No matter its size or thickness, no piece of paper can be folded in HALF more than 7 times.



Brendan Galligan , grandson of Mary Wilcox, Director, RSVP. Brendan graduated this year from Westfield High School. He has been a member of the boys Indoor & Outdoor Track team since his freshman year. He is a pole-vaulter. Brendan plans to attend college to study Engineering. He especially aspires to study Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering at the US Coast Guard Academy in New London. He is currently taking courses in emergency and disaster management online through the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Brendan has been an active member of Troop 72 since April 2000, and has served as Senior Patrol Leader. Scouting has been very rewarding experience for Brendan who is especially proud to have reached his goal of becoming an Eagle Scout.



Danielle P. Myers, daughter of Patricia Samuels, Nutrition Department Danielle attends Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, GA. She has been accepted into the University Honors Program. She has also been accepted into the Madison Who's Who Among Executives and Professionals in their upcoming 2007-08 Honors section of the registry.

▼ **New Employees**

Scholarships

Summer is the perfect time to prepare for school. Whether you are a first time student, continuing student or have someone in your household who is furthering their education, why not take advantage of a Federal Scholarship? The Federal government offers a variety of scholarships across a variety of academic disciplines, for students from high school to graduate school.

For your convenience, this information is located on CRT's Intranet home page on the lower left side in the box marked "Information". Click on "Scholarship Directory" to view the whole listing. The listing is also available in hard-copy at the HR Library at 555 Windsor Street. Contact Valerie Taylor at 560-5801 to "check it out".

Many scholarships and grants go unused on annual basis!!! All it takes is some research and follow through to gain access to this funding.

You are investing your time, your energy, your interest. If you don't have to, why invest your money?

Wishing you well in your continued studies!

Welcome To New Staff

Behavioral Health

Michael A. Daluz
Jessica Saltzman
Nhung H. Trung

Energy

Kimberly M. Pinkney

Facilities

Joseph C. Gartrell
Douglas Uzupes

Nutrition

Linda M. Ferguson
Ada K. Greene
Sandra A. Powell

East Hartford Shelter

Louise Gray

Enfield AIC

Wendy M. Austin
Jessica R. Bottomley
Marcia J. Gadson
Shirley A. Vovolakis

Fresh Start

Aida L. Ortiz

Substance Abuse

Phillip L. Derosier

ECE

Joseph Schroeter
Mary Rene Trigila
Judy Eileen Nimani
Beverly R. Kueter
Maribel Azcona
Ruth Roman

Eviction Prevention

Laura Melissa Mejia-Tatum

Human Resources

Opal C. Lawrence
Shelly Ann Walters

The Retreat

Michael A. Altemose
Mildred Fantauzzi
Felipa Rios
Gina L. Townes

MIS

Michel Serge LaFlamme

Contact Nancy Greer at 560-5613 or Andrea Bonello at 560-5656 in HR for any information and/or suggestions regarding CRT Training.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

CRT launched its expanded Employee Recognition Program by introducing the **Wall of Excellence** in the 3rd floor lobby of 555 Windsor Street.



Each month managers from an assigned department recognize an employee who continuously provides exceptional service to the Agency, and within the community. This employee is honored on the Wall of Excellence. Exceptional performers receive:

- . \$500 CRT Bucks
- . A certificate profiling "why" the individual was selected
- . A financial reward of \$100 (after deductions)
- . Their photo and nameplate from the "Wall" at year-end
- . Recognition at a reception held in the employee's honor

In May we honored Janet Rodriguez on our **Wall of Excellence**. Janet is a HSI case manager and interim coordinator at the East Hartford Shelter. She has consistently stepped into a variety of leadership roles, assisting other case managers while maintaining high productivity levels in all of her duties. Her dedication to Supportive Housing assures that the programs will continue to run well.

The goal of this program is to recognize outstanding individual contributions and encourage all employees to aspire to similar levels of performance. Stay tuned for more information as the Employee Recognition Program develops!

Please call CRT's Human Resources Department at **(860) 560-5613 or 560-5656** with questions, comments or suggestions.

Community Renewal Team, Inc.

555 Windsor Street
 Hartford, CT 06120-2418

August Birthdays

Whyte, Patrice	01	Gollinger, Jeri	09	Neel, Donald A	17	Schwan, Hubert	26
Callahan, Denise J.	03	Squier, Jennifer S.	09	Puyarena, Jennifer L.	17	Thomas, Michael	26
Heredia, Rocio E.	03	Gilbert, Gina	10	Taylor, Valerie	18	Williams, Edwin P.	27
Ford, Navonne Tishele	04	Pina, Rosa	10	Cespedes, Elizabeth	19	Diaz, Carmen R	28
Franco, Maria A	05	Horton Sheff, Elizabeth	12	Richardson, Lola	19	Ricks, Jessie	28
Davis, Karen	06	Josey, Carolyn	12	Rose, Cornelia	19	Coleman, Renee L	30
Ortiz, Aida L	06	Monroe-Walker, Patricia	12	Myers, Lori Ann	21	Nixon, Clarence J	30
Roman, Elizabeth	06	Schroeter, Cecile	13	Brown, Lorna	22	Rios, Rosa Mercedes	30
Brewer, Shelby E	08	Branfalt, Angelica	14	Stanford, Joe L.	22	Lavoie, Jeannine D.	31
Carmona, Edmundo	08	Calloway, Kaaron	14	Brzozowski, Vera Ann	23	Monroe, Brenda V.	31
Clark, Caroline	08	Dreher, Alfred O.	14	Rivera, Evelyn	23	Vereen, Celest	31
Cowell, Sharon	08	Lomberg, John	16	Rivera, Rosa	23		
Dufreny, Sabine	08	Pestana Jr., James	16	Santos, Ana Luisa	26		

September Birthdays

Smith, Alvin	01	Schroeter, Joseph	07	Santiago, Zahira	18	Cruz, Dilia	26
Patterson, Alice	02	Vergean, Bethanne	08	Simon, Michelle	18	Gonzales, Carmen	27
Aheart, Lamont	03	Roldan, Yaritza	09	Wright, Paula	19	Bewry, Myrton	28
Azcona, Maribel	03	Lawrence, Itzaida	10	Rivera, Maria A.	21	Dunson, Joseph	28
Cheema, Maria B.	03	Lebron, Alicia E	10	Stone, Genevieve	21	Pinkney, Kimberly M.	28
Shazel, Crystal	03	Richardson, Beverly	10	Sapia, Mary	22	Alvarez, Luz	29
Tantas, Maria	03	Fabiani, Maria	12	Gray, Louise	23	Ayala, Meri	29
Edwards, Angela	04	Jones, George L	13	Lumpkin, Nancy	23	Powell, Sandra A.	29
Byrd, David	05	Fabiano, Jacqueline	14	Hayes, Eddie James	24	Puzzo, Paul C	29
Rivera, Maria I	05	Christene	14	Santiago, Magda I.	24	Frasier, Felicia A	30
Tyson, Luther	05	Kueter, Beverly R	14	Santos, Candida	24		
Swain, Etta	06	Hunt, Judith	15	Duffus, Patrice	25		
Fantauzzi, Mildred	07	Diaz, Jessenia	16	Gonzalez, Jeffrey	25		
Jenkins, Daryl R.	07	Guzman, Yulimar	16	Bhola, Ravena	26		
Rose, Gloria	07	Wu, Zhi Hua	16	Shiromani	26		

The Community Renewal Team, Inc. was formed in 1963 and is one of the oldest Community Action Agencies 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@crtct.org, phone (860) 560-5456.

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