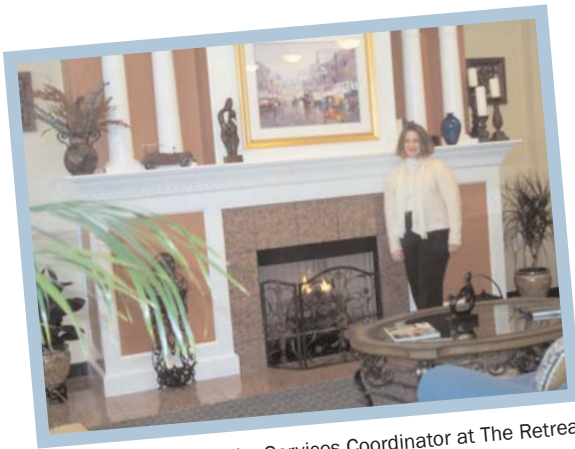


A community you can call home



Heidi Caplinger, the Services Coordinator at The Retreat

The Retreat, the first large-scale assisted living facility for low-income people in Connecticut, is open and accepting applications. If you or someone you know is age 65 or older and needs some assistance with activities of daily living, The Retreat may be the answer. Residents get services they need and maximum independence, and the staff and residents work together to create a community that is caring, respectful, and fun. The Retreat was developed and is operated by CRT. For information please call (860) 560-2273 or visit www.retreatassistedliving.org.

HSI at work: Making Connections, Serving Communities



One person walking into CRT's Wethersfield Avenue office to apply for Energy Assistance has led to an entire classroom's worth of children being enrolled in Head Start.

Continued on page 2

Meals on Wheels: More Than Nutrition

CRT's kitchens in Middletown and Hartford prepare meals for seniors in nearly 60 cities and towns. Most are delivered by volunteers like the one described below in a letter from a recipient's grandson.

Last Friday, my 95 year old grandmother had a stroke and was hospitalized. Up until that point she was receiving Meals on Wheels, and was very appreciative of the service. This past week my grandmother was transferred to a nursing home.

Upon visiting her last night, I was met by William Freeman, a CRT employee who delivered my grandmother's meals. He was concerned about her and he asked around to find out what nursing home she went into. He came and visited my grandmother on his own time for nearly an hour. I must tell you how touched and impressed I was with Mr. Freeman. As you can guess, he delivers more than meals to the elderly. Thanks again, he brightened an old woman's day.

Scott Wilderman

Program of the Month Spotlight

ECE/Head Start Outreach

Continued from page 1

Twenty children, newly arrived in America from Somalia and Liberia, will start classes in CRT's Early Care and Education (ECE) program thanks to a special meeting with an interpreter arranged by CRT.

In December, Energy Assistance staff referred the initial Somali energy applicant to Kim Arcari, a Human Services Infrastructure (HSI) Case Manager working at Wethersfield Avenue. Arcari discovered that they needed child care and referred them to CRT's ECE.

"When I called him to get information on the children Kim referred, he told me there were 10 other families that needed child care," Assistant Director of ECE Susan Lyons said. "That's when we set up Social Services to pick him up and also the other moms to enroll."

The families are from Somalia and Liberia, and have many adjustments to make. Other CRT programs helped, with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) providing blankets, hats, and mittens.

Many of the adults have also been connected with English as a Second Language Classes, Arcari said.

"This is a great example of how HSI works as a new way of doing business for all CRT programs," said Lena Rodriguez, Senior Vice President/Chief Operating Officer. "From walking in to apply for Energy Assistance, we have been able to reach out to a whole community and connect them with services and resources they need."





Training

Come check out the HR Resource library if you haven't already - you don't know what you are missing!

Workplace/Safety training was a success! Thank you to all who assisted with putting this training together. The next training will be on Customer Service Skills. Please see the schedule below.

If you have any questions &/or suggestions on training please contact Michelle Farina in the HR department at 560-5661.

February

What:
Diversity Awareness

When:
Friday 4th 10:00 am

Where:
Lumsden Center rm #1

Presented by:
Art Athanson of HR
(possibly more presenters TBA)

What:
Sexual Harassment Awareness

When:
Friday 25th 10:00 am

Where:
Lumsden Center rm #3

Presented by:
Sue Nelson of Administration
(possibly more presenters TBA)

March

What:
Grant Writing & Public Relations Skills

When:
Friday 4th 10:00 am

Where:
Johnson Training Center - 2nd Floor

Presented by:
Liz Dupont-Diehl of Development
(possibly more presenters TBA)

What:
New Manager Training

When:
Monday 14th &
Wednesday 16th 10:00 am

Where:
Lumsden Center rms. #1 & #3

Presented by:
The HR, Finance, & Facilities
Departments

Benefits

CBIA Eyewear Plan

Please be advised that the CBIA Eyewear plan coverage year runs from February 1st through January 31st. If you signed up for this plan your card should be mailed after the first of February.

403(b) Retirement Plan

You may have noticed new codes on your pay stub effective 1/1/05. These codes are for the 403(b) plan. Code 'B' represents the first 4% of salary deferral and is subject to immediate vesting. For those employees who defer more than 4%, code 'T' represents the remaining 2% match subject to a 5 year scheduled vesting. In accordance with IRS regulations, the maximum deferral for 2005 is \$14,000. Tom Ragonese is our 403(b) representative who visits CRT every last Tuesday of the month at 1pm in the HR Conference room. You can meet with him at this time for questions or to enroll, or you can contact him directly at **289-4418**.

Cigna Health Plan

Please visit www.mycigna.com for information regarding your health plan or to print out a temporary ID card if you did not receive your card via mail.

If you have any questions regarding benefits you may contact your HR Generalist or Christa Harrington at **560-5660**.

Please call CRT's Human Resources Department at **(860) 560-5665** with questions, comments or suggestions.

News & Notes



► Reading is Fundamental

All 20 CRT Early Care and Education Centers will distribute books to students **February 7, 2005**, as part of RIF, or Reading Is Fundamental. Under a grant from the RIF foundation, each center allows children to select books to take home and keep. Many centers will get books also to add to their classroom libraries.

► United Health Care

ECE Unit Manager Kathy Francini wishes to thank **United Health Care** for the extensive volunteer efforts of its employees recently. The employees

“adopted” ECE families for the holidays, buying presents and other items for parents and children. “They really took the time to get to know the families, and went all out to meet their needs,” Francini said.

► Support

Joaner Weidman of CRT's ECE Bloomfield Eric. D. Coleman Center wishes to thank the many CRT staff people who showed support and sympathy during the recent passing of her father.



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

February Birthdays

Jarry, Denise L.	03	Nichols III, Robert	15
Mapp, Gary T.	03	Rodriguez, Teresa	18
Alexander, Imogene	04	Taylor, Kenneth W.	18
Biscette, Theresa	04	Abate, Brandon	19
Jackson, Marcia	04	Davila, Milagros	20
Lynn, Fredrick M.	04	Gonzalez, Caridad Sabrina	20
Pare, Lisa	04	Hayes, Debra	20
Gonzales, Gilberto	07	Howard, Melissa D.	21
Shapiro, Nancy	07	Oates, Glenwood	21
Hyde, Rosalie	08	Myers, Deirdre	22
Vecchitto, Elia Marie	08	Rodriguez-Ortiz, Teresa	22
Henry, Roberto	09	Smith, Patricia A.	22
Bocompani, Joyce N.	10	Wright, Martha W.	22
Jones, Denise M.	10	Carreon, Silvana	23
Andrades, Cristina	11	Diakon Jr., Timothy	25
Torres, Idalis C.	11	Grant, Dennis	25
Trimmier, Carrie	11	Ellis, Lisa T.	27
Hardy, Charles J.	12	Gibson, Mildred	27
Hin-McCormick, Mui Mui	12	Bendickson, Marlin S.	28
Randle-Smith, Janet	12	King, Myra	28
Harrington, Christa J.	13	Maldonado, Magali	28
Ramos, Magda	14		
Correa, Wilda	15		

The Community Renewal Team, Inc. provides a range of anti-poverty programs that help people and families become self-sufficient. Programs include Head Start and Early Care and Education; Meals on Wheels and meals at senior centers; criminal justice programs; neighborhood-based outreach; positive youth development; energy and weatherization assistance; employment and training; and emergency shelter and supportive housing. CRT was formed in 1963 and is now Connecticut's largest Community Action Agency.

InFocus is the 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 to Liz Dupont-Diehl at e-mail lizd@crtct.org, phone (860) 560-5689.

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