



Infocus

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Coventry Place

CRT's Senior Housing on Coventry Street A New 30-Unit Complex

In CRT's effort to help lower-income elderly remain safely in their own communities, a new Senior Housing Community is being constructed at 160 Coventry Street, Bloomfield, CT. Funded by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Coventry Place will offer 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.



Residents will pay 30% of their income as rent, with the remaining residential costs covered by HUD. CRT will have elder programming and case management to support residents' independence.

The Resident Service Coordinator will assist residents with obtaining all resources for which they are eligible, including SSI, ConnPace, Medicaid, Medicare, etc. Through the Homemaker Program, residents who are referred from the Connecticut State Department of Social Services can access light housekeeping services, including cleaning shopping, laundry and meal preparation.

The Coordinator will also make referrals to CRT's other services, such as Meals on Wheels (delivered to the apartment); Senior Café, 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. "There is clearly a shortage of attractive, affordable housing for the low-income elderly," said Lamont M. Aheart, President and CEO of Meadows Real Estate Management and Development, Corp., which is the sponsor of this project. "This is an effort to help seniors 'age in place,' remaining safely outside of institutions for as long as possible." Meadows builds and renovates housing for low and moderate income individuals and families; it is part of a continuum of CRT projects that help seniors remain productively engaged in their communities through affordable housing, supportive services and employment.

Coventry Place was previously the Mediplex of Greater Hartford nursing home, which closed about five years ago. After several years, the building was 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 is being executed by Enterprise Builders of Newington. Move-in is expected in August and September of 2006.

The Coventry Place Team has been led by David Berto, a housing consultant from Suffield, and a board headed by David Walters, CRT's CFO; Jim Pestana, Dir., Neighborhood, Energy & Youth Services Secretary/Treasurer; and Peter Roach, Board Chair. CRT is grateful for the cooperation of the Connecticut Multifamily Program Center, and the Elderly Services Division of the Town of Bloomfield.

Call the DeMarco Management Company at (860) 951-9411 to be placed on the waiting list for an apartment at Coventry Place.

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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@crct.org.

Spotlight

Program of the Month

Early Child Care & Education



CT CHIP at ECE

On February 16th the Ritter Center hosted a child safety event offered through the Connecticut Freemasons Foundation. CT CHIP is a comprehensive child identification program designed to give families a measure of protection against the ever-increasing problem of missing children. Well over one hundred ECE children participated; “the event was a tremendous success,” said Chris McCluskey, Assistant Director, Justice Services. The parents received a bag with their children’s fingerprints, DNA sample, dental bite impression, a digital photograph,



and a brief videotape interview. The RitterCenter student and their siblings, as well as children from several other ECE sites, participated.

“This event would not have been possible without the support of CRT leadership and the numerous volunteers who helped throughout the day, said McCluskey. I want to send special thanks to Mark Pallatino and Steve Bigler from the Enfield AIC and Mindy Perkowski from the Bristol JJC. “We are happy to offer this service in collaboration with the CT Freemason and look forward to future events”.

HSI Tips (Human Service Infrastructure)

Early Care & Education Prgms: Early Care & Education Head Start - 560-5401 or 560-5565

Who the Program Serves: Children three to five years in Bloomfield, Bristol, Clinton, East Hartford, Hartford, Middletown, Portland & Windsor.

Income Guidelines: 150% of the poverty level.

Other Criteria: 10% of the families may be over income and least 10% of enrollment is available to 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.



WHO’S THAT CAT IN THE HAT? RIF Day Brings Celebrities to ECE

On February 17, CRT youngsters enjoyed dramatic readings by some of the area’s leading voices – from TV’s famously funny weatherman Scott Haney to Hartford’s Mayor Mike. More than a dozen guest readers from outside of the “ECE Family,” along with numerous preschool parents, read aloud as part of Reading is Fundamental (RIF). This Family Literacy Program provides funds to purchase books for ECE children three times each year, which they take home to build their own family libraries.

Children at the Locust Street Center were treated to a visit by three local media celebrities including Channel 3’s Scott Haney (shown left) and reporter Susan Raff and John Carroll from Fox 61 television. John Carroll read “The Adventure of Robbie the Raindrop”, a book he wrote and left at the center for the children to enjoy. The governmental sector was well represented, with appearances by Mayor Sebastian Giuliano of Middletown and former ‘Mayor Mike’ Peters of Hartford; State Child Advocate Jeanne Milstein; and State Representative Jack Thompson of Manchester. State Senator Eric Coleman visited the center named for him in Bloomfield, and former House Speaker Tom Ritter read to children at his namesake location, the Ritter Center in Hartford.

Other guests included Carl Guerriere of the Greater Hartford Literacy Council; Judy Goldfarb of the Greater Hartford Childcare Collaborative; Miriam Epstein of the Books to Dreams Foundation; Jane Garibay, Chair of the Windsor Board of Education; and Andrea Obston of Obston Marketing and Communication. The day was a huge success and was equally enjoyed by staff, children and the guest readers – who have already asked when they can return for ‘encore’ performances.

News & Notes - Did You Know?

Elizabeth Mosquera:

The Heritage Registry of *Who's Who*, a New York based biographical publication, selects and distinguishes individuals throughout North America who have attained a recognizable degree of success in their field of endeavor and thereby contributing to the growth of their industry.

The Directors of the Heritage Registry of *Who's Who* announce the inclusion of Elizabeth Mosquera of CRT Locust Early Care & Education Program in the forthcoming 2006-2007 Edition. The accomplishments and achievements attained by Elizabeth Mosquera in the field of Early Childhood Education with CRT warrants inclusion into the Heritage Registry of *Who's Who*.

CRT Display Booth



Will you be visiting a career fair, expo or event where you can highlight CRT and the great work that we do? CRT has purchased a large display that you can sign out and use at community events. It's easy to set up and makes a great impression. Please call Nancy Shapiro at 560-5471 to reserve it for your event.

MICHAEL BOLTON AT YAT



On March 15, CRT had the pleasure of a visit from recording artist and Connecticut native, Michael Bolton.

(For those who are too young or too old to recognize his name, he is a two-time Grammy winner, who has sold over 52 million recordings, and is currently engaged to Nicollette Sheridan, one of television's "Desperate Housewives"). His visit to the CRT Youth Arts and Technology Center followed a breakfast ceremony at the State Capitol where he was honored by Speaker of the House, Jim Amman for his charitable work throughout the State of Connecticut.

Michael Bolton's visit was a follow-up to a sizable donation. Several months ago, CRT received equipment to establish a recording studio at the Youth Arts and Technology Center, funded by Michael Bolton Charities, Inc. Volunteers, interns and part-time staff have already helped Hartford teens produce their own music and Public Service Announcements. They were able to demonstrate their creativity to Bolton during his visit.

Bolton spoke passionately about his craft and the importance of hard work and commitment. At the conclusion of the visit, he asked the youth to provide him with a "wish list" of equipment and offered the services of his own technician to share his expertise.

The Michael Bolton Charities, Inc. was established in 1993 to bring attention to issues which adversely affect children and women at risk - issues which include domestic and street violence, poverty, abuse, neglect, homelessness and AIDS. In addition, the MBC exists to broaden opportunities for youth across socioeconomic and multicultural lines by creating easy access to resources that foster personal development. The MBC is particularly interested in identifying organizations that provide direct services and grassroots initiatives that possess the spirit and commitment, but not the capacity to help themselves and their communities.

MBC and CRT are working together on a proposal to create a Contemporary Music Program that offers high school credit opportunities to "at-risk" youth who seek to realize their dream of a career in the music industry. It is our sincere hope that this is the beginning of a long relationship with Michael Bolton Charities, Inc. and their commitment to fund a program for CRT.

CRT Goes to Washington



Rep. Rob Simmons of the Second Congressional District, (center), met with Lena Rodriguez, Edith Karsky of CAFCA and other representatives of Connecticut's Community Action Agencies during the annual conference put on by the National Community Action Foundation in

Washington DC. Lena Rodriguez, Theresa Nicholson, Fred Lynn, Nancy Pappas and Marta Bentham (a board member) represented CRT at this conference. The group also spent time with Representatives Chris Shays and Nancy Johnson, and staff from Congressman John Larson, Senators Chris Dodd and Joseph Lieberman. The biggest issues this year were restoring the funding for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), which supports all CAAs, and increasing funding for Head Start.



Spring Safety Fair
May 26, 2006

CRT'S
SPRING
SAFETY
FAIR
IS COMING!!

SAFETY GIVEAWAYS

FOOD

COTTON CANDY
HOT DOGS
PIZZA
POPCORN
SODA

GAMES

Heading



THERE IS STILL TIME FOR YOU AND YOUR COWORKS TO EARN MORE SAFETY BUCKS JUST ASK YOUR SUPERVISOR HOW!!!

RAFFLE PRIZES

USE YOUR SAFETY BUCKS TO ENTER TO WIN THESE GREAT PRIZES!!!!

\$50 Body Renovations Spa Gift Certificate

Overnight at the Farmington Marriot

One PAID day off

5 FREE lunches off CRT Cart

\$100 CASH : 20" Color TV

Mountain Bikes

AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!!!!!!

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



FEBRUARY

Mavis Chappell
Clinical Social Worker -
Supportive Housing, Youth Services

MARCH

Latoya Savariau
MIS, Analyst -
Administration



Books Donated to ECE

Nancy Pelegano, Patti Hedges & Tammy Petrik delivered over 1,300 books to ECE. The books were collected at a book drive held at the Eastbury Elementary School in Glastonbury. This is the third year Eastbury students have collected and donated books. When the Eastbury students learned that many children didn't have books they were very motivated and collected the 1,300 books in one week. The books will be for classroom use. Neighborhood Centers will receive Chapter books for older siblings. ECE gives a heartfelt thanks to the Eastbury students.



FUN FACTS

1. The planet Pluto sees the sun every 48 years.
2. The planet Venus is also known as both the morning star and the evening star.
3. Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.
4. Dinosaurs dominated the earth for 140 million years.
5. Giraffe's tongues can be approximately 22 inches long and are a dark black color.
6. The fastest water mammal is the dolphin; they can swim up to 35 miles per hour.

INFOCUS WITH:



Brian Ducksworth - Son of Virginia Rodriguez - CRT's E.C.E. Administrative Assistant

Brian's football team won the 2005 ECFC Championship. Brian is in the 9th grade and attends East Hartford High School. He plans on trying out for Basketball and the Track & Field. He speaks three languages (English, Spanish & French). One of Brian's future goals is to play professional football.



Alessandria Rodriguez - daughter of Virginia Rodriguez - CRT's E.C.E. Administrative Assistant

Alessandria is a student at East Hartford Middle School. She is in the 7th Grade. Alessandria is a High Honor Roll student. She was the Student of the Month for February. Her aspirations are to be a Chef or Veterinarian.



Brianna Smith - daughter of Bridget Smith, CRT's Nutrition Department

Brianna received her results on March 22, 2006 from Thomson Prometrics, the testing agency for Experior, a division of Capstar for her Hair Dressing/Cometology License. She is now a Licensed Hair Dresser and Cosmetologist. Brianna is the first from her class to take the test and receive her license. She also got her drivers license this month. Brianna has maintained her Honor Roll status and is doing well in school.



Danielle Myers - daughter of Patricia Samuels, CRT's Nutrition Department

Danielle is a student at both Weaver High and the Greater Hartford Academy School of Performing Arts. She has maintained High Honors for three years. She sits on the Board of Education as a representative for Weaver High. She is a Team Leader for Stomp the Violence program. Danielle has been accepted to Clark Atlanta University.

▼ New Employees

Behavioral Health

Dale Majzel

Bristol AIC

George Hamberg
James Parker

CAFCA

Ruth Medina

East Hartford JJC

Aliya Gravesande

ECE

Jennifer Ortiz

Facilities

James Johnson

Hartford Nutrition

Diane W. Bradwell
Garland Tanksley
Jamie L. Dermott

Middletown Energy

Edmundo Carmona

Middletown Nutrition

Jaynees Woods
Ricky White

Neighborhood Svcs

Carmen Y. Navarro
Jason C Ramos
Tabia Gaston

One-Stop

Corendis Dawson-Bonner
Tyrone Canino
Wanda Bush

Senior Aides

Gwendolyn Lowrie

Supportive Housing

Adreanne McKenzie
Brenda Muniz

The Retreat

Adrienne Dominguez
Cecilia Smalling
Elvin Dominguez
Euniceteen Smith
Felix Martinez
Jullet Smalling
Rafaela Castillo

Contact Michelle Farina in HR for any information &/or suggestions regarding CRT Training at 560-5661.

**CRYSTELL BAKER
NAMED 'EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR'**



The Agency's Employee Recognition Luncheon was held on March 29, honoring each of the CRT Employees of the Month for 2005. Suspense was high as CEO, Lena Rodriguez got ready to announce the name of the recipient of the Paul C. Puzzo Award for Staff Excellence. As she read off the facts about the individual – provides leadership on tax assistance, certifies energy assistance, works with Hartford Grandparents Program – all eyes turned to Crystell Baker. But until her name was actually called,

Baker says that she had no idea that this honor was going to her (pictured with her parents).

The HSI Case Manager from the Albany Avenue Family Service Center was sitting with her parents and her supervisor, Elizabeth Horton Sheff, who nominated her for the award. "Crystell is so committed to serving people, she truly exemplifies not only customer service but the idea of 'going the extra mile.' I know that the work she does is from her heart," Horton Sheff said.

Baker came to CRT in 2000, as a Suburban Outreach Worker in West Hartford. She has worked on the roll-out of the Human Services Infrastructure (HSI) across the Neighborhood Services division and is the liaison to the City of Hartford's Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program. A native of Hartford, she has lived in East Hartford for five years. Asked to choose one aspect of the program that she most likes, Baker declined. "I love working with people, so the whole job is terrific," she said.

Nutrition Tips-Keeping Your Cholesterol in Check

Get Your Cholesterol Checked

Getting your cholesterol checked regularly is important to warding off heart disease. Start having your cholesterol checked every five years, beginning at age twenty. If you find you have an elevated cholesterol level, you may have to have it checked more often. Children over the age of two should also be checked regularly if there is a family history of high cholesterol or heart disease earlier than age fifty-five.

Self-Care Tips - The primary sources of cholesterol in our diets are eggs, dairy products, and red meat. You can keep your cholesterol in check by balancing the amount of these foods that you eat, along with the following healthy eating habits.

- . Consume more fish, poultry, lean beef, pork, and lamb instead of sausage or other organ meats.
- . Drink skim or low-fat milk.
- . Eat sherbet, sorbet, or ice milk in place of ice cream.
- . Eat only egg whites, not the yolks.
- . Eat steamed vegetables instead of buttered or fried vegetables.
- . Choose baked potatoes over French fries.
- . Eat clear soups rather than creamed soups.
- . Use unsaturated vegetable oils.
- . Choose pretzels or air-popped popcorn instead of potato chips as your snack.
- . Stay away from pastries or doughnuts.
- . Eat pancakes or cereal with low-fat milk for breakfast, rather than eggs & bacon. And eat more fruit!!



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April Birthdays

Deberry, Carlise	01	Esposito, Deborah	08	Aiken, Elaine	15	Laney, Leslie	21
Brown, Kevin	02	Rivera, Frances	09	Dobrich, Yakelin B	15	Molestina, Dolores	21
Dejesus, Ileana	02	Vasquez, Ramona	09	Liljedahl, Joyce B	15	Perez, Adiola	21
Henriques, Dawn	02	Gunderman, Kyle	10	Majzel, Dale	15	Garnes, George	22
Perez, Maribel	02	Jenkins, Sharon H	10	Vazquez, Irma R	15	Davis, Nicole A.	23
Keach, Gustave	03	Rivera, Hipolita	10	Guiles, Diane E	16	Ortiz, Cherie C	24
Williams, Henry	03	Baron, Margaret A.	11	Lyons, Susan	16	Leatherwood, Lessie	26
Holmes, Rochelle	04	Brewer, Cathi-Ann	11	Martinez, Marcos	16	Murphy, Todd	26
Price, Barbara B	04	Ryan, Jack	11	Mundle, Re'shantia	17	Pantojas, Tamara D	26
Williamson, Rhonald	04	Velasco, Rosa	11	Oliver, Kristy D	17	Woods, Patricia A	26
Cawley, Deborah	05	Benjamin, Theresa	12	Torres, Miriam E	17	Murray, Ethel	27
Daniels, Noreen F	05	Green, Eleanor U.p	12	Fernandez, Alma	18	Underwood, Barbara	28
Hardin, Keisha	05	Johnson, Renee T.	12	Heredia, Teresa	18	Lovallo, Daniel J	30
Wilson, Karl S.	05	Leary, Demetria	13	Smalling, Jullet	19	Vega Baez, Luz	30
Baxter, James W	07	Ransom, Brenda	13	Andrusio, Michele	20		
Godbold, Bobby	07	Young Jr, Leroy	13	Richards, Leona	20		

May Birthdays

Gaston, Carolyn D	02	Jones, Annie L	10	Cruz-Diaz, Ana	22	Werther, Jacqueline	27
Valenzuela, Carmen	02	Ramos, Florentine	10	Davis, Norma J.	22	Cartagena, Christina	28
Cooper, Gilbert G	03	Williams, Monique C.	10	Barnes, Juanita	23	Gonzalez, Benjamin	28
Michalman, Robert	03	Diaz, Aida	11	Fortuna, Lizzette	23	Marrero, Yajaira	28
Kearse, Douglas K	04	Leroux, Rosa	11	Lindo, Raquel	23	O'Neil, June	29
Saez, Rebeca	04	Whyte, Nina E	11	Quiles, Denise	23	Stanley, Shamyra	29
Santana, Sol M	04	Walker, Bernice	12	Abrams, Charlotte A	24	Lopez, Anamelida	30
Claudio, Evelyn	05	Brown, Bruce	13	Carlos, Soledad L.	24	Matias, Norma	30
Clay, Rodwell	05	Lay, Wade	14	Vazquez, Mayra L	24	Belding, Stefanie	31
Cordero, Angel	05	Moore-Lewis, Mary	14	Gaines, Wanda I	25	Boyle, Robin	31
Garcia, Marcolina	05	Veletz, Betsy A	15	Farrar, Margaret E.	26	Dixon, Gena	31
Spaulding, Esmeralda	05	Ostrowski, Nancee	16	Genua, Genevieve	26	Herrera, Milagros	31
Vazquez, Judith	06	Green, Debra A.	17	Jones, Adrienne D	26	Jefferson, Wilhemina	31
Estrada, Celaura	07	Cooper, Tewolde E	18	Moreau, Kristen M.	26	Johnson, James	31
Washington Jr., Larry	08	Hightower, Mark	19	Owens Jr, Theodore	26	McDermott, Jamie L	31
Freeman, William	09	Williams, Ransom	19	Torres, Modesta T	26	Perry, Marie	31
Latiff, Vinool	09	Bethea-Campbell, Mary	20	Foote, Kareen M	27	Velazquez, Delthy	31
Rodriguez, Magdalena	09	Maldonado, Maria D.	21	Ibarra, Lilibeth	27		
Alvarez, Fatima L	10	Aparo, Michael P.	22	Muslin, Delora	27		

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 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) 560-5637.

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