



Infocus

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McKinney Shelter

TWO DECADES OF SERVICE



The staff of CRT's Stewart B. McKinney Shelter in Hartford have much to celebrate this spring. Although the 88-bed facility seems like it's bursting at the seams – frequently accommodating more than 100 men by using overflow cots – the program achieves very strong and positive outcomes for residents. What's more, in April the Connecticut AIDS Resource Coalition (CARC) conducted its annual audit, and awarded McKinney a near-perfect score: 125 points out of a possible score of 126.

The McKinney Shelter opened in 1987 in a renovated firehouse on Huyshope Street (in the Colt neighborhood) following the death of a homeless man in a Hartford park the previous winter. The program is underwritten by the state Department of Social Services, Ryan White Title I and HOPWA funding (Housing Opportunity for People with AIDS) from the City of Hartford and the state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

McKinney is open year-round, serving more than 2,600 men over the course of a year. Contrary to what many people think, the shelter is actually more crowded over the summer than it is during the winter; that's because many shelters are open only during the cold weather.

Visiting the shelter is always interesting and enlightening. One man tells of being laid off after working 12 years in a local mattress factory, and being unable to find other work. Another talks about caring for the ailing aunt who "took him in," and his eviction when her children sold the home after her death. The background stories are different, but the residents all share the struggle to find stable, affordable housing.

More than 20 staff members are focused on helping residents set goals and plan for their next steps, including finding and affording that housing. Case managers help residents look for jobs, and locate financial assistance, such as veterans' or disability benefits. McKinney provides counseling, substance abuse groups, on-site medical services and referral to off-site services for all residents. "Graduates" are encouraged to come back as volunteers, role models, or participants in group discussions. Their success stories are encouraging to others, as they tell of their apartments or jobs, their sobriety and community support. Some of the tales are published in the McKinney Shelter newsletter, which is put together every second month by HSI Assistant Geraldine Monroe-Dees.

Community partners work with the shelter staff to establish a positive tone and upbeat atmosphere. For example, nursing students from the University of Hartford's Project Horizon helped residents to beautify the grounds around the shelter by planting bulbs last fall, which brought color to the small yard that surrounds the brick building. Drummers from The Artists Collective participated in McKinney's Black History Week celebration, which also included poetry, jazz, karate and discussions of the history and issues behind the commemoration. The men of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity visited recently to bring care packages that included socks and many personal care items.

Additional volunteers and community partners are always welcome. For more information please call Kevin Brown, Program Manager, McKinney Shelter, at 722-6920.



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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.



Phil Davis,
Facilitator

Fatherhood Initiative Started at Heritage ECE Center “Strong fathers equals strong families” is program theme

Happy Father’s Day! Dads are at the heart of a new program at CRT’s Heritage Early Childhood Center, located in a troubled neighborhood in North Hartford. Facilitator Phil Davis of the newly created Fatherhood Initiative Program comes in every Wednesday with the goal of trying to rebuild the fatherhood structure in this community, using many different techniques to get his point across. A typical session starts with a full breakfast, and includes discussions on relationships with your child, your own dad, and the baby’s mother as well as community issues. A core group of 15 attends most meetings.

At a recent session, teacher Marcia Jackson urged the dads to be cautious in what they say and do around their children. Ms. Jackson explained that she had overheard the children engaged in conversations about things that they were far too young to know about. The Dads said that they now realize that they serve as role models for their children, and will be more conscious about what they say around them.

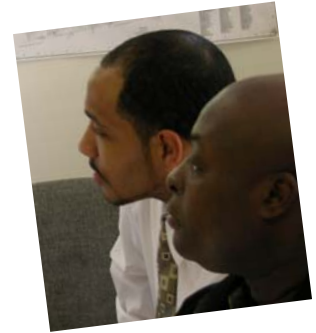
Yvette Cartagena, Assistant Unit Manager, brought this idea to Hartford after seeing it work in Middletown. She solicited the help and support of Assistant ECE Director, Susan Lyons; Unit Manager, Lucretia Jones; Family Service Coordinator, Denise Jones and Family Service Worker George Jones. The whole team comes every Wednesday to help prepare breakfast, round up the dads, or whatever else is needed. The staff of Heritage always encourages their dads to attend. Thanks also to Virginia Rodriquez, Administrative Assistant, for providing breakfast and Kasey Reyes, Kitchen Aide, for setting up and cleaning up after each session.

Unit Manager Lucretia Jones said, “I am pleased that a program is being implemented that is encouraging Dads to play a more positive role in their children’s lives. We are fortunate to have George Jones and Phil Davis working together on this project! We are expecting great things to come.”

The fathers have assigned roles such as administrative assistant, treasurer, etc. so that they might be able to start planning field trips, and other father/child activities. A field trip is being planned to Six Flags.



The Dads



Captain 5 A Day visits Locust Street

Radio Disney 1550 AM and “Captain 5 A Day”, the super hero



visited ECE Locust Street. He encourages preschool children to eat fruits and vegetables and to be physically active. His name reminds everyone to eat a total of five servings of fruit and vegetables and to exercise every day. Early intervention can set up lifelong behaviors that lead to

better habits, better nutrition, better health and learning about new foods can be lots of fun said Tina Dogdale, RD, RN; Department of Public Health/UCONN.

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 of age and live 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 at 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.

2006 Graduating Class



Afrika S. Lyons - daughter of June M. Lyons, HSI CM, **Neighborhood Services**-Afrika is a senior at Watkinson School in Hartford. For four years she has been on the honor/ high honor roll. She has been accepted into *Who's Who Among American High School Students* and the "National Honor Roll Society". She has been awarded a scholarship from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. She has been accepted to six universities and colleges and will matriculate to Dickerson College & will double major in Pre-Med:Neuroscience & Spanish.



Haley Renfro-daughter of Linda Renfro, CRT's HR Assistant- Haley will graduate from Bacon Academy in Colchester. She is an honor student. She is active participant in PAL (Peer Advocate League), FBLA (Future Business Leaders in America.) Haley will be attending UCONN in the fall.



Aja Wilson - daughter of Brenda Ransom, **Facilities Director** -Aja will graduate from Granby Memorial High School and will be attending the University of Hartford Hartt School of Performing Arts in the Fall.



Danielle Myers - daughter of Patricia Samuels, **Nutrition Department** - Danielle will graduate from Weaver High School and The Greater Hartford School of Performing Arts. She has received various scholarships which include Jacob Fox and UFCN Union. Also, she as been inducted into *Who's Who Among American High School Students* and the *National Honor Roll*. She will be attending Clark Atlanta in the Fall.



Virginia Rodriguez - ECE Administrative Assistant Virginia will graduate from Manchester Comm. College. She will receive an Associate degree in General Studies with a concentration in Early Childhood Education. She is one semester away from a second AS degree in Liberal Arts with a concentration in Ethnic Studies and plans to attend St. Joseph College to complete her Bachelors Degree.



Doris Gimarie Battle - daughter of Doris Battle, **Planning Dept.** Doris will be graduating in June from the Metropolitan Learning Center, an Interdistrict Magnet School for Global & International Studies located in Bloomfield. She is a recipient of Honors & High Honors recognitions; she is a member of the National Honor Society and the World Language Honor Society. She will be attending the Univ. of Connecticut, where she will be pursuing a major in Animal Science. Doris received several scholarships including a six week summer scholarship and a Leadership Award that spans 4 years.

Students from the Webb School Read Poems for Mother's Day to the Retreat Residents

Students from the Webb School in Hartford believe in Community Service. Every other Friday, the students (Caitlin,



Brianna, Chelsea, Ashley, Heather, Jen & Matt) and their teachers, Tara and Julie visit the residents of The Retreat where they play scrabble, cards, and bingo, plant gardens and enjoy spending time with the members. For Mother's Day, they made cards, composed poems and read them to the members, who appreciated the students' efforts.



CRT'S SAFETY FAIR A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS!!

The Safety Committee would like to thank everyone who participated. We hope to see you again next year at the Second Annual Safety Fair Event. Until then, Think Safety and Stay Safe.

News & Notes - Did You Know?

Elizabeth Horton Sheff: CRT's Director of Neighborhood Services was recently granted the 2006 Living Legends Caritas Award from St. Joseph College for her work with grandparents raising their grandchildren. The theme was "In Praise of Grandparents," honoring "the living legends who have nurtured generations in families, communities, professions or the arts."



Marie Gourzang-Allen: Teacher, Room 4 at the Eric D. Coleman Bloomfield Head Start Center. On April 30, 2006, Marie was initiated as a member of the Kappa Delta Pi Society of Pi Phi Chapter an International Honor Society in Education.



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



APRIL

Marcos Martinez, Cook
Nutrition Department

"Meals on Wheels" Volunteers Keep on Rolling

Mabel Conrady, left, of Rockville, and Kathy Crouch of East Windsor received awards for 25 years of service at CRT's "Meals on Wheels" Volunteer Recognition Breakfast in May. At 92, Conrady is the oldest CRT driver with a "solo" route. She prefers to stay busy, so she also helps at an elementary school library, does paperwork for the dialysis unit at a hospital, and assists with religious services at a nursing home. Crouch, who hasn't yet reached her 70th birthday, says she first volunteered for "Meals on Wheels" so she would have a guaranteed block of hours away from her husband with whom she had just opened a business! She keeps it up because "it's a great way to give back to your neighbors." CRT depends upon more than 300 volunteers to help with the delivery of the 1,000 meals that go to homebound elderly of Hartford and Middlesex counties each day.



Alessandria Rodriguez - daughter of Virginia Rodriguez - E.C.E. Administrative Assistant
-Alessandria was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society on May 9, 2006 at East Hartford Middle School. She is a straight A student. Alessandria received a metal from the National Junior Honor Society for Highest Grade Point Average in her class and the President's Award for Education Excellence signed by Laura Bush. She hopes to become either a Chef or a Veterinarian.



Miguel Velasquez - Son of Delthy Velazquez - Teacher at Dreamland Daycare (Baby Room)
Miguel Velasquez is 15 years old. He goes to the Pathways Technology school where he is recognized as an Outstanding Team Leader at school. During the CT Innovation Exposition at The Connecticut Convention Center on May 13, 2006 he demonstrated the website he created where families can find out how to provide students healthy alternative lunches when they are at school.
tasteelunch@yahoo.com

ECE Strike Resolved!

We are very pleased to tell you that the ECE strike was settled on May 11 and all staff returned to work on May 15. It took many partners to pull together this agreement, and all of our children will benefit! – *Paul Copes, Executive Director of Education Services.*

Social Planning Committee SAVE THE DATE - FUNDRAISERS

- | | |
|---|---|
| SPC Cafe
June 23, 2006
12:00 - 2:00
CRT Main Office Bldg.
Buy Hot Dogs, Hot Links or Kielbasa
w/ Chips & Slushees | SPC Dessert Day
July 14, 2006 |
| | CRT Summer Picnic
Winding Trails, Farmington
August 25, 2006 |

2006 CRT Pre-Concert Event



Mr. & Mrs. Bob Sander bid on and won the acoustic guitar signed by the Eagles

On Saturday evening, April 22, 2006, CRT celebrated the success of our First Annual Pre-Concert Event at the Hartford Civic Center. A large group of CRT friends and supporters gathered in the Exhibition Hall where everyone enjoyed delicious food and beverages, bid on a variety of auction items and celebrated CRT's many accomplishments.

As if that wasn't enough, we soon moved on to the Civic Center arena where everyone sang along and snapped their

fingers to the music of Billy Joel, who performed a wide variety of songs to the delight of everyone who attended. Most important of all, the event raised critical dollars for Early Care and Education. Without this support, we would be hard pressed to continue the growth and progress that makes our agency the vibrant and effective center for service delivery to our community.

FUN FACTS

1. No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver or purple.
2. On average, you breathe 23,000 times a day.
3. A 'jiffy' is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.
4. Money is made of woven linen, not paper.
5. In an average lifetime a person will walk two and a half million steps or the equivalent of three times around the world.

TRIVIA QUESTIONS:

How many human body parts are spelled with three letters?
10 : eye, hip, arm, leg, ear, toe, jaw, rib, lip, gum.

Who was the first Hispanic woman to become an astronaut?
Ellen Ochoa became an astronaut for NASA in 1990.

What percentage of Americans volunteer?
55.6 percent of adults aged 18 or over volunteered a total of 19.9 billion hours.

▼ New Employees

Welcome to the CRTeam! Please welcome **Patricia Donovan** as the new **Director of Human Resources** for CRT. Trish comes to CRT with extensive leadership experience as a human resources professional in a variety of environments. She is an expert in all areas of human resources management and has an outstanding track record of meeting goals and objectives in a fast paced environment. As a member of the United States Military Reserves, she was awarded a Bronze Star for outstanding service. She can be reached at 560-5663 or email at donovanp@crtct.org

Behavioral Health

Ana Lopez

Bristol AIC

Jill Colavolpe
David M. Zienka II

Criminal Justice

Maragret Dillon

E&T Food Stamp

Len Weston Piexotto

ECE

Adriana Del Valle
Ana Arniella

ECE

Anjaknie Roundtree
Carlene Cummings
Carmen M Rivera
Elisa Valle
Erin P. Brown
Felisha Bates
George L. Jones
Gina Gilbert
Jeimy L. Pacheco
Jennifer Rebenske
Kimberly H. Radtke
Elisa Valle
Lizbeth Flores
Madeline Ramirez
Mark Nadolski
Michelle Simon

ECE

Miriam Leon
Nadine M. Hoilett
Nerissa V. Terry
Robin Hussain
Rosa Torres
Sean A. Brown
Sharon A. Leak
Shauna Henry
Talia Cassis

Energy-Middletown

Brittney Edwards

Human Resources

Glenn Coleman
Linda E. Renfro

Jobs First

Ashley A. Bell
Jeannette Casillas

McKinney Shelter

Kimothy Williams-Reynolds

Milford AIC

Michael Caturano

MIS

Raquel Ortiz

Nutrition

Marie E. Schneider
Wesley Stewart

The Retreat

Gregory K. Payne
Donna M. Smith
Dennis O'Brien Edwards
Laurie Deaner
Cora Tennie
Nydia Rivera
Luis A. Rodriguez
Janet Randle
Elvis A. Santiago

Supportive Housing

Theresa R. Sanford
Rajah Weaver-Bey

Youth Services

Brenda E. Ramos

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

DID YOU KNOW? In accordance with the Federal tax law of 403(b) tax sheltered annuity plans Hardship Withdrawals may be taken only for the following reasons:

1. Medical expenses as described in Section 213(d) of the Internal Revenue Code that are incurred by the participant, his/her spouse, or any dependents.
2. The costs directly related to the purchase of your principal residence (excluding mortgage payments).
3. Funeral expenses for a member of your family.
4. Payment of tuition, related educational fees, and room and board expenses for the next twelve (12) months of post-secondary education for yourself, your spouse or dependent.
5. The payment necessary to prevent your eviction from your principal residence or foreclosure on the mortgage of your principal residence.

All requests for approval of hardship withdrawals must be accompanied by proof of the hardship. If you find you are in a position where your financial needs are changing for a period of time you may choose to suspend your contributions or reduce the amount of your contribution and begin or adjust them again as your needs change. Any changes to the salary reduction election are permitted quarterly: i.e. prior to the first day of each quarter.

If you have any questions regarding CRT's 403(b) plan, please call Nancy Greer at 560-5613.

CRT's Student Interns for Academic Year 2005 - 2006

Thanks to the interns who have worked in the Planning Department this year, under the direction of Irene Glasser.

From left to right:

Delora Musslin: University of Connecticut School of Social Work, Immigrant and Refugees Project

Jennifer Rodriguez: University of Connecticut School of Social Work, HIV Prevention

Chanae Perry: University of Connecticut School of Social Work, Grant writing and SAMHSA City of Health Projects

Allison Fisher: University of Connecticut School of Social Work, Grant writing, HIV Prevention, Byrne Supportive Housing Pilot Program Evaluation

Irene Glasser: Ph.D., Director of Research/Senior Planner, student supervisor

Justyna Tymoszczuk: Central Connecticut State University, Byrne Supportive Housing Pilot Program Evaluation

Keeley Wolf: University of Connecticut School of Social Work, Living Center and HIV Prevention



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

June Birthdays

Canino, Tyrone	1	McMillan, Judith	9	Novarro, Jane P.	15	Halpert, Karen	20
Clark, Roger D.	2	Torres, Rosa	9	Harrison, Cora W.	16	Roche, Shelly	21
Allen-Frazier, Yvonne	3	Walker, Gloria	9	Cartagena, Yvette	17	Sanford, Theresa R.	22
Rivera, Maria D.	3	White, Julia M.	9	Dosreis, Sandra	17	Silvestre, Gladys	22
Weaver-Bey, Brian	3	Cruz, Melanie	10	Gooden, Shernette	17	Battle, Doris	23
Williams, Laytricia	3	John, Claudette R.	10	Rios, Elba	17	Edmondson, Beverly	23
Wilson, Carl	3	Williamson, Vanessa	10	Torres, Gladys	17	Chung, Michelle	24
Gomez, Zandra I.	4	Gaston, Tabia	11	Biscette, Yvonne	18	Corcoran, Ann	24
Rebenske, Jennifer	4	Johnson, Carol	11	Turner, Sellisa N.	18	Green-Patterson, Annette	24
Restrepo, Jose M.	4	Rivera, Nydia	11	Williams, Zoey	18	Farina, Michelle	25
Luna, Stacey L.	5	Fothergill, Della	12	Crocker, Robert	19	Anderson, Raytasha	27
Alvarado, Gelly Gina	6	Scott, Shalai Michelle	12	Ellison, Elaine	19	Ramirez, Madeline	27
Bernardo, George	6	Terry, Sandra	13	Gumbs, Germaine L.	19	May, Sherraine Kimberly	29
Rodriguez, Ana	8	Tomassi Sr, Charles J.	13	Rodriguez, Janet	19	Morris, Trudy	29
Tanksley, Garland	8	Holmes, Robin	14	Castro, Sara	20	Quesnel, Beatrice E.	30
		Erskine, Constance	15	Deaner, Laurie	20	Rodney, Angela E.	30

July Birthdays

Bradwell, Diane W.	1	Rodgers, India M.	8	Perez-Ramos, Migdalia	15	Mosquera, Elizabeth	24
Compton, Tina L.	1	Smith, Donna M.	8	Harris, Sherry W.	16	Parker, Dorian G.	24
Cruz, Miguel	1	Grace, Michael	9	Monroe-Dees, Geraldine	16	Woods, Jaynees	24
Favale, Maria Teresa	1	Negron, Mildred	9	Perez, Valencia L.	16	Adamson-Jackson, Lorna	25
Mungo, Ian M.	1	Ocasio, Gregorio	9	Henry, Veleta	17	Pate, Melvine	25
Lopez, Idamaris	2	Battles, Denise	10	Howell, Montrose	17	Perkowski, Melinda	25
Rhodes-Gooch, Marilyn	2	Gomez, Joel	10	Baker Jr., Charles	18	Burke-Lewis, Jeana L.	26
Smith, Martha Ann	2	Tifa, Ercilia	10	Brown, Daniela	19	Jackson, Alisha	26
Cote, Paula	3	Brown, Effie L.	11	James, Brenda	19	Williams, Tammy	26
Hartfield, Breanna	3	Sanchez, Ana C.	11	Larose, Rachelle	19	Jenkins, Crystal N.	27
Alicea, Marilyn	4	Smith, Glenda Sue	11	Johns, Kevin B.	20	Casey, Katherine	29
Diaz-Moore, Dorka	4	Wilson, Beatrice	11	Santana, Elizabeth	20	Edwards, Melba	29
Powell, James	4	Braswell, Melvin D.	12	Casillas, Jeannette	21	Parks, John	29
Santiago, Norma I.	4	Thompson, Tamara A.	12	Douglas, Marvin	21	White, Margaret	29
Melendez, Wanda	5	Wilcox, Mary	12	Wright, Tracey	22	Parks, Lori	30
Rojas, Maria	5	Arniella, Ana	13	Gosselin, Mark S.	23	Speranza, Dion D.	30
Mitchell, Dean	7	Sanabria, Luis	13	Mercado, Leonilda	23	Vazquez, Anibal	30
Wilson, Narvin	7	Glasser, Irene	14	Ramos, Brenda E.	23	McDaniel, Lakisha	31
Robinson, Joyce	8	Reyes, Kasy	14	Martinez, Candence	24	Orzel, Dayma	31

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](mailto:Cornelia.Rose@crct.org) at rose@crct.org, phone (860) 560-5637.

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