

# CRT And Partners Deliver For 800 Families

Submitted by Jason Natelle  
COMMUNITY RENEWAL TEAM  
HARTFORD

More than 100 volunteers from the Community Renewal Team, Feed The Children, PepsiCo, and Price Rite collaborated to distribute groceries and other essentials to 800 pre-selected families at the Comcast Theatre in Hartford on Aug. 1.

The families in need came from 28 Central Connecticut towns, including many from the Greater Hartford area. Volunteers directed traffic in orderly lines set up through the expansive parking lot, beginning at noon. They loaded families' cars with pre-assembled grocery bags with fresh produce and boxes of non-perishable food and personal care items.

"Supporting families in a time of need is a critical part of CRT's mission, and we're proud to be able to help so many as a result of this partnership with PepsiCo, Feed the Children and Price Rite," said CRT President and CEO Lena Rodriguez. "This could not have come at a better time since families are out buying back to school supplies and clothing in time for the upcoming school year."

Low-income families with at least one child under the age of 18 were eligible to apply for one of



MARIA CHEEMA

**MORE THAN 100 VOLUNTEERS** helped distribute groceries and other essentials to 800 needy families at the Comcast Theatre. Volunteers came from PepsiCo, Feed the Children, Price Rite and Community Renewal Team.

the 800 available vouchers. The distribution is part of Feed The Children's Americans Feeding Americans Caravan, which has helped more than 395,000 families across the country since it began in 2009.

More than one in three children living in Hartford (42.8 percent) is at risk of hunger. The number of impoverished children living in Connecticut (96,188) could fill the XL Center more than five times.

A longtime supporter of Feed The Children, PepsiCo generously donated products, along with local retailer Price Rite. Hartford area employees from both companies, along with volunteers from CRT donated their time to help distribute boxes of

food and products to the families in need.

"We sincerely appreciate the tremendous contribution by PepsiCo, Price Rite, Community Renewal Team, Inc. and their employees to help children and families in Hartford," said Tony Sellars, spokesperson for Feed The Children "Our Americans Feeding Americans project is geared toward people who are still being affected by the economic downturn, including many who until recently considered themselves middle class. A lot of these people, for the first time in their lives, have not been able to provide for their families and this distribution will provide relief for them at a crucial time."

To see the impact of Feed The

Children's Americans Feeding Americans Caravan in your area visit [www.AmericansFeedingAmericans.org](http://www.AmericansFeedingAmericans.org). To find out more about CRT and its programs, please visit [www.crtct.org](http://www.crtct.org).

Since 1979, Feed The Children has consistently ranked as one of the largest international charities in the U.S., based on private, non-government support. Our mission is providing hope and resources for those without life's essentials. In FY 2011, Feed The Children distributed more than 104 million pounds of food and other essentials to children and their families in all 50 states and internationally. For more information, visit [www.feedthechildren.org](http://www.feedthechildren.org)

Community Renewal Team Inc. is the designated Community



Action Agency for Middlesex and Hartford Counties and is the largest non-profit provider of human services in Connecticut.

The agency's mission is Preparing Our Community to Meet Life's Challenges. The mission is achieved each day by helping people and families become self-sufficient while making sure basic needs are met.

CRT's programs include Head Start, Meals on Wheels, energy assistance, supportive housing and shelters, and many others, serving people in more than 60 cities and towns in both our core catchment area and throughout Connecticut. [www.crtct.org](http://www.crtct.org).

H4 THE HARTFORD COURANT SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 2012 6 \*

## Confront Prejudice: A Free Workshop

Submitted by Lisa Beede  
HARRIET BEECHER STOWE CENTER  
HARTFORD

What makes us distrust differences and separate "us" from "them"? Fear of what we don't understand? Deep-rooted biases?

The Harriet Beecher Stowe Center will present "Confront Prejudice -- Build Community" to explore how "we" view and act toward "others" from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 21.

Facilitated by Dr. William A. Howe, CT Department of Education, and open to all at no charge, this event also offers the chance to view the Stowe Center's summer exhibit "THEM: Images of Separation."

Howe is the program manager for culturally responsive educa-

tion, multicultural education, bullying and harassment, gender equity and civil rights at the Connecticut Department of Education. He is the founder of the New England Conference on Multicultural Education (NECME) and past president of the National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME).

Howe has been an educator for more than 35 years and has conducted more than 400 workshops, lectures and keynotes on diversity, multicultural education and organizational development. He is a regular presenter at state and national conferences and has appeared on both radio and television to discuss diversity issues.

Previous workshop participants have called Howe "an engaging and effective facilitator"

and described the experience as "powerful and transforming" and "the most useful workshop I have attended in 25 years." At the Stowe Center, he will lead a workshop that will be not only enlightening and inspirational but also provide useful and practical strategies to help confront prejudice and build community.

From 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., participants can view "THEM: Images of Separation," on loan from the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia at Ferris State University in Michigan. The exhibit shows how everyday objects are used to foster prejudice and discrimination and separation.

"We invite you to this workshop if you are interested in making your community more inclusive and accepting of all," says



READER SUBMITTED

**THE HARRIET** Beecher Stowe Center will hold a workshop Aug. 21.

Katherine Kane, Stowe Center Executive Director. "Through the exhibit and the workshop, we're working to encourage tolerance and promote social justice."

The evening's schedule: 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.: Registration, reception and viewing time for exhibit in the Katharine Day

House. 5:30 to 7 p.m.: Workshop in the Stowe Visitor Center.

The Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, a museum, program center and research library, is located at 77 Forest St. in Hartford. The Stowe Center is open year round for tours and programs.