A SELECTION OF MEDIA FROM JANUARY 2015 - DECEMBER 2015
In 2015, the Communications Team brought positive news about the Community Renewal Team to a broader audience, combining the reach of traditional media (television, radio and print) with the power of digital platforms.

**GEOGRAPHIC PENETRATION**

Twenty-two different print publications with circulation in more than 40 Connecticut towns covered news about CRT, helping us deliver the message that we serve people throughout the region. Home town newsmakers included a Weatherization customer from Simsbury who won a $300 gift card in CRT’s monthly drawing; the First Selectman of Windsor Locks who honored RSVP volunteers for their work as Bradley Airport Ambassadors; a Windsor-based chef who threw a fundraiser dinner for the CRT Food Pantry; and a Santa from Tolland who brought a sleigh full of gifts to the East Hartford Shelter.

**WEBSITE AUDIENCE GROWING**

In 2015 the website saw a 13% increase in the number of unique visitors, rising from 73,389 (2014) to 83,225 (2015). These users conducted a total of 140,884 sessions (occasions of active engagement), up from 132,719 in 2014.

First-time visitors accounted for 57% of these sessions, returning visitors 43%. In these sessions, a total of 359,199 pages were viewed. The average session lasted 2 minutes and 17 seconds, meaning the visitor was browsing rather than landing by mistake and bouncing right out.

CRT’s fully translated Spanish website is also growing tremendously. Site visitors went up 88.17% from 2,046 in 2014 to 3,850 in 2015. The Agency has made a tremendous commitment to translation, providing flyers and application forms in Spanish.

Web users come from communities throughout our region. While 37% are from Hartford, significant numbers of user addresses are in other locations. In descending order of frequency, these include: New Haven, East Hartford, West Hartford, Manchester, Middletown, Bloomfield and Windsor.

The home page is viewed by 22% of all web visitors, followed by the Careers section (5%) for those considering employment with CRT. The Energy Assistance page saw the biggest increase – visits jumped 565% from 1,880 page views to 12,497. The spike occurred in October, when a Facebook campaign to promote our new interactive voice recognition system was referring users to the Energy web page.
Access through mobile devices continues to climb, and desktop computer use is decreasing. This year nearly half of web interactions with CRT were conducted from a hand-held device. Specifically, 65,688 sessions were conducted on mobile devices in 2015 compared with 48,112 sessions in 2014, for a 36.5% increase.

**FACEBOOK MAKES CONNECTIONS**

Just three months after the CRT Facebook page hit 500 likes, we shot up over 600 – and we are now hovering at **680**! Facebook is an increasingly important way to stay in touch, and those who follow the organization are likely to engage, take action and share information.

For example, many of the people who lined up early one Saturday morning for a free computer had seen the distribution on Facebook – or had received the post from a friend. During the last six months of 2015 there were **4,726 engaged users**. Photo albums reach thousands, who often share pictures with others. The most popular albums this year were on two very different topics: The 100-Day Campaign to Reduce Chronic Homelessness with 2,289 people reached and 108 Likes, comments or shares; and the Early Care and Education Spring Fling in Bushnell Park, with over 1,553 people reached, 3,690 post clicks and 791 Likes, shares & comments.

**INCREASED TELEVISION COVERAGE**

There were nearly 60 separate televised news segments about CRT people and programs in 2015, reaching an audience of more than 2.5 million. The December gun buyback drew the greatest attention, estimated at 826,538 viewers. Feed the Children, our annual distribution of groceries to 800 families, drew an estimated 263,221 viewers and the close-out of the 100 Day Challenge to house chronically homeless people brought 231,660.

(Figures from media monitoring services.) We reached a new market with a long feature on weatherization filmed for a locally-produced Univision program.
Community Renewal Team
Changing lives... Creating opportunity!

Working to End Homelessness

HARTFORD NEWS
1/15/2015

WTNH 8
6/24/2015

TV NEWS
AUDIENCE 231,660
BROADCASTS 6

FOX 61
6/24/2015

Non-Profits Seek Volunteers For Homeless Census
More than 100 volunteers are needed for this year's census of homeless individuals in the Greater Hartford region, known as the Point-in-Time count. The Community Renewal Team and Journey Home CT, coordinating agencies for Hartford, need volunteers for the following shifts: January 27, 28 or 29 from 4-7am or January 28 from 7-11pm. Volunteers will be trained to administer a short survey to people in shelters and those staying outdoors. The demographic information collected is important to assess the levels of community need. To volunteer for Greater Hartford's PIT count email will.i.smith@journeyhomect.org.

376 CLICKS

Fox 61
6/24/2015

Community Renewal Team added 27 new photos to the album: 100-Day Effort to End Homelessness: Mission Accomplished.

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy and Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra spoke to the teams from the five areas in Connecticut that undertook 100-Day Challenges to house chronically homeless people at their wrap-up today at the Community Renewal Team. More than 460 people have found stable and secure housing as a result of the statewide Rapid Results initiative. The partners will continue the push to end veteran homelessness in 2015, and all chronic homelessness in Connecticut in 2016.

1,110 REACH
1,686 POST CLICKS
127 LIKES, SHARES & COMMENTS
City Briefs: League of Women Voters forum, 100-Day Efforts to End Homelessness Start Monday

NORWICH BULLETIN
3/9/2015

Eastern Connecticut taking part in challenge to end homelessness

THE HOUR ONLINE
3/9/2015

NORWICH BULLETIN
3/9/2015

1,891 CLICKS
EMAP Helps Homeowners Avoid Foreclosure

The Connecticut Housing Finance Authority and the mayors of Hartford and Wethersfield held a press conference with CRT to encourage homeowners to seek help holding on to their homes.

THE HARTFORD COURANT
4/24/2015

WFSB 3
2/19/2015
CHFA encourages homeowners in danger of foreclosure to apply for assistance

THE MIDDLETOWN PRESS
3/2/2015

UNIVISION
2/23/2015

BUS ADS
4/20 - 5/30/2015
RIDERS/MONTH
1,430,000

WEST HARTFORD NEWS
3/5/2015
PARTNERSHIPS BENEFIT COMMUNITY

Gun Buyback Takes Weapons Off the Streets

A Chance To Get Guns Off Hartford’s Streets

HARTFORD COURANT
12/19/2015

On Dec. 7, Richard Holloway, 26, was shot and killed on Judson Street in Hartford. Two days later, another man, Joseph Lindsey, 45 was killed, stabbed to death at Albany Avenue and Baltimore Street. Then, Dec. 12, Edison Burge, 22, was shot multiple times near 20 Griswold St., bringing the number of homicides this year in the city to 31, 60 per cent more than the 19 that occurred last year. Almost all of the homicides this year, as in previous years, were committed with a handgun.

Hartford is not alone in experiencing a dramatic increase in the number of homicides this year; many cities across the country have experienced a similar increase. But Hartford at least is trying, along with Worcester, New Haven and Bridgeport and some other cities, to do something about it. On Saturday, it will hold its seventh annual gun buyback program at the Community Renewal Team’s offices on Windsor Street from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The idea of a buyback program is simple: Those wishing to turn in a gun bring it, unloaded and in a plastic bag, to a designated place and receive — no questions asked — a Stop and Shop gift card for $100 or $200, depending on the type of weapon. The gift cards are purchased with funds contributed by a variety of sponsors as well as individual members of the public.

Gun buyback program to be held in Hartford

MATTHEW BERNICK
December 18, 2015

HARTFORD, Conn. (WTNH) — A gun buyback is being held in Hartford on Saturday. The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 555 Windsor Street.

The program will provide Stop & Shop gift cards to people who turn in a working gun. A $200 gift card will be given for an assault rifle. A $100 gift card will be given for a handgun or revolver. A $25 gift card will be given for the return of a shotgun or rifle.

Guns that do not work and ammunition can be turned in too; however, they’re not eligible for a gift card.

Participants should make sure their gun is not loaded, put their gun in a clear plastic bag, then put that bag in paper box or bag.

All guns received will be destroyed unless forensic testing confirms they have been used in a crime.

WTNH 8
12/18/2015
Sharing Art with the Community

ART TALK, WEST HARTFORD COMMUNITY TV
1/15/2015

NEWINGTON TOWN CRIER
1/21/2015

NEWINGTON TOWN CRIER
1/21/2015

MY TOWNS
3/1/2015
Students Hold Bike Drive For CRT

WEST HARTFORD NEWS
5/7/2015

Hall High School students hosting bike drive to help the homeless

By Shaila Manu

Three Hall High School students are working together to tackle the transportation needs of the homeless. Sam Delbatta, Jessica Gilbert and Sam Katten, seniors in Hall’s global problem solving class, learned of the transportation needs experienced by the homeless during a trip to Salisbury, Md. In Hartford, they had conversations with former homeless individuals, and then decided to organize a bike drive.

The group set a goal to collect 100 bicycles, divide them among the three shelters, create a database of their locations and connect with the Hartford Department of Health and Well Being through the educational program. They plan to organize the bikers on each day, with the bikes going to the shelters.

Community Renewal Team, Inc. is the designated Community Action Agency for the Middlesex and Hartford counties and is the state’s largest non-profit provider of human services in the region. According to a release, the agency’s mission is to embrace people and connect them to people and opportunities in homeless situations across the state.

The bike drive is being led by the students at Hall High School, with the help of the Hartford Department of Health and Well Being. The students plan to collect bikes, sort them and deliver them to the shelters.

WEST HARTFORD PRESS
6/9/2015

Fox 61
5/27/2015
Bike Rodeo Matches Children with Bikes

Lined Up For Success

Tony Cherolis, Youth Program Coordinator at the Center for Latino Progress, helps Zulma Gomes with the bike she received at a Bike Rodeo held Monday August 10 for children at the Community Renewal Team’s Generations campus. Bikes collected by Hall High School students and repaired by youth at the Center for Latino Progress were distributed at the rodeo, put on by the St. Francis Injury Prevention Program.

HARTFORD NEWS
8/13/2015

Community Renewal Team
Published by Myriam Pilar Salazar Chala (Y) - August 11 at 3:07pm

Thanks to NBC Connecticut for coming to our Bike Rodeo! An event that provided properly fitting helmets, bikes and information about bike safety to kids from the Clark neighborhood in Hartford. Partners included: Hall High School, Community Renewal Team, Center for Latino Progress - CPRF and Saint Francis Hospital.

Bicycles for Deserving Kids in Hartford, CT

Thanks to NBC Connecticut for having a segment about our Bike rodeo! An event that provided properly fitting helmets, bikes and information about bike safety...

TV NEWS
8/10/2015

WITH 8
8/10/2015

WEST HARTFORD NEWS
8/13/2015
McKinney Health Fair

THE HARTFORD NEWS
4/23/2015

WTNH 8
4/15/2015

TV NEWS
AUDIENCE 64,204
BROADCASTS 1

CART Health Fair

Project Hartford partnering study found the University of Hartford and CRT’s McKinney Emergency Shelter opened a health and resource fair on April 15. Residents and individuals and families could have blood pressure checked, dental care, food items, nutrition counseling, mental health, HIV testing, transportation and more. The event also offered games for those students who are graduating with their degrees in nursing.

THE HARTFORD NEWS
4/23/2015

Eventos, Sociales, y Mucho Más...

THE HARTFORD NEWS
4/23/2015

Facebook
REACH 557
POST CLICKS 782
LIKES, SHARES & COMMENTS 137
CRT Helps Habitat for Humanity - Women Build

FOX CT
5/5/2015

NBC 30
5/5/2015

TV NEWS
AUDIENCE 210,718
BROADCASTS 4

facebook
REACH 578
POST CLICKS 88
LIKES, SHARES & COMMENTS 47
Summer Food a Great Success

139,377 meals served this summer
Up from 89,308 last year
73 sites
14 communities

MIDDLETOWN PRESS
6/21/2015

COURANT ONLINE
8/14/2015

ENFIELD REMINDER
7/29/2015

TV NEWS
AUDIENCE 95,089
BROADCASTS 1

WFSB 3
8/12/2015

summer food a great success
reach 204
post clicks 1,421
likes, shares & comments 46

summer food program fills the “summer food gap”
providing nutritious meals to children who qualify for free or reduced-price meals during the school year.

Middletown summer meals site

audience 95,089
broadcasts 1
Feed the Children Helps 800+ Families

More than 825 families from 25 towns received at least 25 pounds of produce and shelf-stable food, assisted by 140 volunteers.

TV NEWS

NBC 30
6/17/2015

WTNH 8
6/17/2015

AUDIENCE 263,221
BROADCASTS 5

facebook

REACH 1,442
POST CLICKS 2,330
LIKES, SHARES & COMMENTS 197

More than 825 families from 25 towns received at least 25 pounds of produce and shelf-stable food, assisted by 140 volunteers.

A big thank you to our partners — Feed the Children, Frito-Lay division of PepsiCo, PepsiCo, FritoRite, XFINITY Theatre, Live Nation and the Hartford Police CT — for making yesterday such an incredible success! 800 families from 25 cities and towns received a week’s worth of produce and shelf-stable food, along with personal hygiene products, books and more. And three cheers to the hundreds of volunteers who checked, sorted and loaded throughout the afternoon!
Meals on Wheels Delivers Comfort to All

CRT’s Meals on Wheels program delivers hot meals, comforting words ... and sometimes pet food to seniors who are homebound.
Raising Funds for Elder Nutrition

Community Renewal Team’s Elderly Nutrition Program, which brings nutritious meals to more than 3,000 seniors each year, received a $5,000 donation and a set of wheels from Toyo. This funding comes at the start of a crowd-funding campaign on Crowdfunder to offset an impending funding cut for the meal program. CRT has 22 trucks on the road, traveling 1,140 miles every day. For details visit www.crtct.org.

Donate for elders’ meals

The Price Rite supermarket at 500 Windsor Ave., Windsor, is raising money to support the Community Renewal Team’s Meals on Wheels program by allowing customers an opportunity to buy a wheel for $1 each. From now through Oct. 10, the store will encourage customers to make a donation at the checkout counter. CRT’s Elderly Nutrition Program can provide up to 40 meals per week to small provincial towns, offering a variety of therapeutic options to meet the participants’ dietary restrictions. For the last year, CRT served more than 8,000 seniors. To learn more, visit www.crtct.org.

HARTFORD COURANT
11/8/2015

JOURNAL INQUIRER
11/15/2015

WEST HARTFORD NEWS
10/1/2015

JOURNAL INQUIRER
9/1/2015

WEST HARTFORD PRESS
9/3/2015

Walter Toyo, President of Toyo Tire & Rubber in Kentucky, and CT’s most trusted grocer, Price Rite Supermarkets, have joined forces to support the Community Renewal Team’s (CRT) Elderly Nutrition Program, which brings nutritious meals to more than 3,000 seniors each year. Toyo’s $1 donation program will run from Sept. 14 through Oct. 10, allowing customers to purchase and donate wheels to CRT’s Elderly Nutrition Program. The wheels will be used to transport the meals to seniors in need.

West Hartford News 2015

The Price Rite supermarket at 500 Windsor Ave., Windsor, is raising money to support the Community Renewal Team’s Meals on Wheels program by allowing customers to buy wheels for $1 each. From now through Oct. 10, the store will encourage customers to make a donation at the checkout counter. CRT’s Elderly Nutrition Program can provide up to 40 meals per week to small provincial towns, offering a variety of therapeutic options to meet the participants’ dietary restrictions. For the last year, CRT served more than 8,000 seniors. To learn more, visit www.crtct.org.

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Head Start Enrolls Children

Chronicled
Community Renewal Team Affordable Preschool

Community Renewal Team announces that there are affordable preschool openings at its licensed and accredited Middletown program, 44 Martin St. Children born in 2009-12 are eligible for this high-quality preschool experience, which prepares children to enter public school ready to learn. Children can enroll at any point in the spring, the summer or next fall.

"CRT is also a great option for children who are not currently attending a school preschool," said Megan George, program manager for CRT Early Care and Education. "When there are spaces available in the spring, parents are encouraged to find space on their calendar as they are interested in the program, while they work. The Kids Have Their Own".

CRT is currently offering enrollment for newly enrolled families who enroll and return to the program for 2015-16. For more information, contact CRT by phone: 860-344-0680, or visit the site at crtct.org.

MIDDLETOWN CHRONICLE
4/1/2015

NATURAL AWAKENINGS
8/1/2015
Head Start Opens in Bristol

Bristol Head Start expands to year-round child care
October 2, 2015
By Lisa Capagreanco
STAFF WRITER

Bristol’s Head Start program has kicked off the new school year offering families an extended day and a longer school year.

The program officially opened last Tuesday at both its Lake Avenue and South Street locations here in Bristol.

The classrooms were

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Head Start 50th Anniversary

HARTFORD COURANT
5/19/2015

REACH 118
POST CLICKS 14
LIKES, SHARES 5
& COMMENTS
ECE Spring Fling

HARTFORD MAGAZINE
9/1/2015

Fun In The Park

5. Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra and the Community Renewal Team's CEO, Liana Rodriguez, enjoy a moment in Bushnell Park at CRT's Early Care and Education Spring Fling in June. The free festival featured entertainment, educational books and bounce houses, plus included CRT's preschool students and their parents and siblings.

Child Abuse Prevention Day

Thank you to over 40 volunteers, who took the time to help our ECE classrooms observe Child Abuse Prevention Day, reading "Your Body Belongs to You" by Comelia Mauze Spelman. Special shout out to Mi Mi Mul-Hin-McCormick, Executive Director of the CT Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission; Portland First Selectwoman Susan Sannaford; State Senator Eric Coleman; Hartford Fire Chief Carlos Huertas; and Hartford City Councilman Joel Cruz Jr and Ken Kennedy. You and our other volunteers made the day very special for our children and their families.
Head Start Bristol Giving Tree

THE BRISTOL PRESS
9/11/2015

Head Start students preview presents

THE BRISTOL PRESS
9/11/2015

Head Start families and staff members at the Bristol Head Start's Giving Tree party for preschoolers share the spreading cheer.

THE BRISTOL OBSERVER
10/2/2015

Stop and Shop spreads holiday cheer to Head Start kids.

THE BRISTOL OBSERVER
10/2/2015

Children from the Head Start program gathered around the Giving Tree at Stop & Shop on Farrington Avenue Tuesday morning for a Christmas preview.

Sen. Chris Murphy said they were the best behaved group of preschoolers he had ever seen.

“I know that from firsthand experience, because I have a 4-year-old that would never sit still for this,” he said, as the children gathered for a group photo in front of the tree full of presents underneath it.

Every year, the supermarket puts up a Christmas tree, known as the Giving Tree, with each paper ornament asking for a toy for a girl or boy in the Head Start program. After collecting donations, the store invites 3- and 4-year-olds in for a party around the tree.

“This is really an amazing time of year,” Murphy said. “This time of year is about celebrating family and friends, and also about giving.”

Gifts were not distributed at the party, explained Nancy Papas, director of external affairs for the Community Renewal Team, which runs Bristol Head Start. Heads team management and family service workers sort and distribute them.

“They’re given to the parents and then they either go under the tree or Santa gives them out — or whatever the parents decision to handle it is.”

“IT’s such a generous, giving community to do this for all of the little ones in our program,” said Emily Montgomery, Community Renewal Team director of the early education program.

“We really want to wish everybody the happiest of holidays, and I know our kids are certainly going to have the best of holidays this year,” she said.

Mayor Ken Cockayne said he first learned about the Giving Tree program at the start of the school year when he went to read stories to children at Head Start’s Lake Avenue location.
Santa Visits the East Hartford Shelter

WFSB
12/24/2015
RSVP Recruits Reading Volunteers

Seniors needed to read with students in Manchester, Vernon

By Maria McGearry
For the Journal Inquirer

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program RSVP READS is seeking volunteers aged 55 or over to spend one hour per week reading with an elementary school child in Manchester or Vernon. The program runs from late October through May, allowing teachers to send students out of the classroom for one-on-one attention during the school day. Volunteers act as positive role models, inspiring their students to read by making it fun.

Volunteers need not have educational backgrounds or any formal experience. Training will be provided, and scheduling is flexible to the volunteer’s preferred days, hours, locations, and travel plans.

According to Theresa Strong, RSVP manager of the Community Renewal Team, the program has expanded significantly since its inception 15 years ago. “We have only in four Vernon schools and one Manchester school when I began my tenure in 2013,” Strong said. The program now reaches 11 schools in Manchester and Vernon, and one school in Portland.

Participating schools include Huckleberry Elementary, Bowers Elementary, Kenney Elementary, Martin Elementary Wadell Elementary, and Highland Park Elementary in Manchester. Vernon schools include Center Road School, Maple Street School, Skinner Road School, Northeast School, and Lake Street School. Gildersele School in Portland was recently added.

Strong hopes to continue the expansion, and RSVP is collaborating with Cromwell. “We’re the largest RSVP in the state,” said Strong. “We’re really trying to diversify and reach all the towns we serve. It will take years, but that’s our goal!”

Interested volunteers should contact Theresa Strong by email at strongt@crtct.org, or call 860-760-3088.

The only requirements are to be 55 and over, have one hour per week, a love to work with children, and a love of reading," he said.

JOURNAL INQUIRER
7/4/2015

NATURAL AWAKENINGS
9/1/2015

COURANT ONLINE
6/22/2015
RSVP - Director Profile

Theresa Strong heads volunteer program

‘Meaningful service opportunities that meet real community needs’

By Marc Danner
Staff Writer

Theresa Strong, who recently retired from the American Legion, said she was surprised to learn that she was named the director of the volunteer program at the American Legion. She said she was looking to continue her work in community service and was thrilled to be named the director.

“Theresa has a great deal of experience in community service and is well respected in the community,” said the American Legion’s National Commander, Mark Sills. “She’s a strong leader and will be an asset to the volunteer program.”

Theresa Strong, a retired volunteer, said she is excited to continue her work in community service. “I’ve been volunteering for many years and have seen the impact that volunteers have on the community,” she said. “I’m looking forward to helping others continue to make a difference.”

Theresa Strong said she will work closely with the American Legion’s National Commander to ensure the program is successful. “I’m confident that Theresa will do a great job leading the volunteer program,” said Mark Sills. “I’m looking forward to seeing what she can do.”
REDUCING ENERGY COSTS

A Weatherization Success Story

By Nancy Pappas

Annie James and Maryjane Curry of Hartford dodged the worst of winter with its dropping temperatures and rising heat bills. Even with help from the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program, this couple had to stretch their disability payments and sometimes dip into their savings to pay for their heating oil.

But in spite of that year’s record cold weather, Curry says they’re reaping just two of dollars this winter — about half-thirds of their usual consumption — thanks to extensive work performed in 2014 by the Community Renewal Team’s Weatherization Program. This program helps low- or moderate-income, elderly, and disabled homeowners and tenants reduce the cost of heating and cooling their homes. Owners of multi-family properties can also receive extensive weatherization if more than 60 percent of their tenants are income-qualified.

After a detailed audit to assess the condition of the James/Curry home, CRT assigned contractors to seal up leaks throughout the house and provide a new boiler, attic insulation, a bathroom vent, programmable thermostat, high-efficiency light bulbs, low-flow faucets, and other measures to reduce energy consumption. All told, the couple received $8,500 worth of equipment and labor at no cost.

When CRT found that the old boiler was located in asbestos insulation, they helped the couple apply for a Connecticut Housing Investment Fund loan and brought in the potential contractor to estimate the cost of removing the hazardous material. The CRT loan for $7,600 didn’t have to be repaid until the home is sold or otherwise changes ownership.

That’s an example of how weatherization providers can combine funding from multiple sources to help owners avoid problems.

Homeowners or tenants who are interested in weatherizing their homes are screened through their local Community Action Agency (CAA), which also administers the Energy Assistance programs across the state. CRT is the CAA for 40 cities and towns in Central Connecticut, 10 towns in the Milford area, and 30 towns in the Long Island Sound. Any state resident can call 2-1-1 to determine which of the state’s 10 CAA’s covers their town, and find a location near their home.

In 2014, CRT weatherized more than 3,300 homes, primarily in Hartford and Middlesex counties. The work covered by the program is determined by family income and the ratio of expenditures to expected savings from the conservation measures.

“This is a tremendous program, but many people we completely unaware of the opportunity,” says Scott H tacis, CRT’s Director of Energy Conservation. “If you’re reducing your fuel and electric bills and improving the value of your property at no cost then you should jump on it!”

National research shown that every basic energy update can reduce a household’s energy usage by 20 percent.

In a short note to the Weatherization Program Coordinator, Annie James expressed her gratitude for the way CRT stayed to touch throughout the process. “Getting all of this work done was quite a while, but I never felt that I was in this alone, yet — I always knew that there was someone who would answer any questions and help me with the next step.”

HARTFORD COURANT
2/27/2015
Homeowners
Renters! Landlords!
You may be eligible for FREE weatherization!
Save 25% on water and energy bills!
CRT will:
✓ Seal air leaks and drafts
✓ Install energy-saving light bulbs
✓ Install water-saving aerators on faucets
✓ See if you qualify for:
  o Insulation upgrade
  o Furnace cleaning
  o Refrigerator/freezer replacement
Call to see if your property qualifies.
(860) 560-5354.
Weatherization@crtct.org

Residents can win gift cards for weatherization efforts
Published Wednesday, June 17, 2015

Homeowners Renters! Landlords!
You may be eligible for FREE weatherization!
Save 25% on water and energy bills!
CRT will:
✓ Seal air leaks and drafts
✓ Install energy-saving light bulbs
✓ Install water-saving aerators on faucets
✓ See if you qualify for:
  o Insulation upgrade
  o Furnace cleaning
  o Refrigerator/freezer replacement
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Apple Harvest Festival in Southington bounces back from rainy Friday

By Jesse Buchanan Record-Journal staff

SOUTHINGTON — Crowds came out in force on a sunny and cool Saturday for the second weekend of the Apple Harvest Festival downtown. Some entertainment and fireworks had been postponed from Friday night due to rain and cloudy weather. Organizers said they expected people who stayed in on Friday planned instead to come out over the weekend.

“You'll usually get a percentage of people that planned on last night that came today,” said music coordinator Jerry Limmer.

Among the vendors was Jamie Gaffney of J. Gaffney Art. He was painting a scene of the clock from his Center Street booth among other artists who are members of the Southington Cultural Community Arts group. Gaffney is a Southington resident and said he's been at the festival for the past few years. It's a good place to display and sell his work. “It's my hometown, I like to see people,” Gaffney said.

Steven McCarty, America Legion Post 72 commander, was pleased with the crowds on Saturday after poor weather. The group was selling wristbands and collecting donations for Veterans Landing, a planned assisted living facility for veterans in Newington. McCarty said donations will go towards outfitting the apartments with appliances, dishes and other items.

The festival offers an opportunity to collect donations but also let people know about the effort. “It's not only community support but also to get the word out about what we're doing,” McCarty said. “It's the first of its kind in the United States,” he said. “Not many people know about it.”

There's strong support from festival-goers for veterans, according to McCarty. The Legion has collected money at the festival for the Fisher House in West Haven, a rehabilitation facility for veterans and donated about $40,000 over the past three years.

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