The Community Renewal Team 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 throughout Connecticut.

To convey its messages, and promote its programs and services, CRT maintains ongoing relationships with reporters and editors at major newspapers, TV and radio stations around the state. Additionally, to further its reach, the agency actively uses social media channels, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube. (Pictured above: Juan Gonzalez, resident of CRT’s The Retreat, was featured in “Humans of Hartford” in October 2017.)

Table of Contents:

Behavioral Health Services ........ page 3
Community Action Day ............ page 4
CRT Generations .................. page 5
Early Care and Education .... pages 6—7
East Hartford Family Shelter ..... page 8
Elderly Nutrition ............... pages 9—15
Energy Assistance ............ pages 16—17
Feed the Children ............... page 18
Gun Buyback ........................ page 19
Hoffman Holiday Baskets ........ page 20
Hurricane Relief Efforts .......... page 21
McKinney Shelter .............. pages 22—23
National Arts Program ................. page 24
RSVP Bradley Airport Program ........ page 25
Summer & Youth Employment ...... pages 26—27
Tee Off with Women Golf Event .......... page 28
Women’s Empowerment ................ page 29
YouthBuild Program ................ pages 30—31
Random Acts of Kindness .............. page 32

Want to speak with CRT about a story or interview?
Jason Black, Strategic Communications Specialist
@ 860-230-4535 or via email: blackj@crtct.org
Behavioral Health Services

The Connecticut Health I-Team took a close look at the work of CRT and other agencies to help ex-offenders with health care needs.

Medicaid, ACA Uncertainty Threaten Success Of Ex-Offenders’ Health Care Programs

By Adam Wawrzinski April 20, 2017

Since 2011, Connecticut has issued more than 39,000 new Medicaid cards to prisoners returning to communities, connecting them to health care services with the goal of keeping them healthy and out of prison.

This initiative, which gives ex-offenders the opportunity to see a primary care physician on a regular basis and access critical mental health and drug-abuse treatment programs, exists because of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and Medicaid pays most of the costs.

Recidivism data show that the initiative is working, state officials say. Yearly, the Court Support Services Division (CSSD) refers approximately 20,000 adults on probation to various behavioral health programs and tracks them for 12 months. In 2016, CSSD reported that 23.1 percent of adults who completed their referral program were rearrested, a five-year low since CSSD started tracking in 2012. For those who dropped out or were kicked out of the program, 42 percent re-offended within 12 months.

Heidi Lubetkin, vice president of clinical and support services at Community Renewal Team, Inc., in Hartford, said many ex-offenders referred to the agency for mental health and drug abuse treatment were also in need of primary care. The agency connected with the University of Hartford’s Project Horizon to get its clients primary care help from volunteer registered nurses.

"I think it’s important to take care of the complete person," she said. “You can’t take care of just one thing. Yes, take care of their substance abuse and mental health, but you can’t do that if they feel like crud.”
Community Action Day

In March of 2017 CRT joined with other Community Action Agencies for “Community Action Day” at the state Capitol. The story was picked up by The Bristol Press and CT News Junkie.

Agency members at Capitol to oppose budget cuts

HARTFORD — Emotions were high Thursday morning as more than 200 Community Action Agency Network staff members and clients converged on the Legislative Office Building to share their stories.

The group gathered at the state Capitol for a Community Action Day in opposition to Gov. Dannel Malloy’s proposed 20 percent reduction in Human Services infrastructure and Community Action Program funding and also President Donald Trump’s budget proposal.

Trump’s budget proposal eliminates funding for numerous programs in the country, including funding for the Community Services Block Grant.

“‘We must stand together and we cannot let this happen,’” said Deborah Monahan, chairwoman of the Connecticut Association for Community Action Agency’s Board of Directors.

The Human Resources Agency of New Britain was in attendance at the rally. Yomaria Colon, a client of the HRA, shared her story about how the Community Action Agency positively impacted her family.

Through HRA New Britain, Colon benefited from energy assistance programs, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and completed an Individual Development Account workshop to help her build a savings account.

“This program (IDA) has taught me to be more disciplined. It helps me budget, save, invest, organize my records, and also helps and supports my goals,” Colon said.

Connecticut’s Anti-Poverty Agencies Would Be Devastated By Trump’s Budget

by Christine Stuart | Mar 23, 2017 4:25pm

Connecticut’s nine Community Action Agencies that administer funding from those programs would likely have to shutter their doors or try to stay open and offer fewer services to Connecticut residents, if Trump’s budget is approved.

More than 200 employees and clients of those nine agencies were at the state Capitol in Hartford Thursday to remind lawmakers that any additional funding cuts would further devastate and possibly eliminate their agencies.

The agencies, which are federally funded through the Community Services Block Grant and receive some state funding, served more than 357,500 people last year.

Democratic Gov. Dannel P. Malloy has proposed cutting the funding for the agencies by about 20 percent. Trump’s budget would completely eliminate the programs that the agencies offer.

Trump’s proposal would eliminate the Community Services Block Grant, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Weatherization Assistance Program, and Meals on Wheels Program. Early estimates provided by the Connecticut Association for Community Action show that the state receives $7.2 million from the Community Services Block Grant, $380 million from the Low Income Heating Assistance Program, and $2.3 million for weatherization.
CRT Generations

In April, the Chronicle featured the work of CRT’s Generations program, and the opportunity for grandparents to raise their grandchildren.

In late November, CRT’s partnership with Hartford Stage, and their work for underserved communities in the Hartford area was promoted.

At left, the story from The Chronicle; below is the release sent by Hartford Stage.

HARTFORD STAGE
50 Church Street
Hartford, CT 06103
www.hartfordstage.org

MEDIA RELEASE

Hartford Stage Implements Community Access Program for Underserved Hartford Communities

Ruth Sved of Lebanon shows an article about her raising her granddaughter in The Rock, case manager of Community Renewal Team Generations and Founding Chair, programs manager for CRT Generations during the recent Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program at the Community Service Center.

A group from Community Renewal Team’s Operations Program enjoyed ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’ at Hartford Stage. Photo courtesy of Community Renewal Team.
Early Care and Education

The Middletown Press and the Hartford Courant recognized our efforts with a foster grandparent whose grandchild attended a CRT ECE program in Hartford.

Middletown woman, 65, named Big Brothers Big Sisters foster grandparent of year

At right, story from The Middletown Press; below from The Hartford Courant.

Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters Honors Volunteers

Five volunteers who give their time to help kids in the state were honored during the Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Year Awards held Tuesday, May 9 at The Mark Twain House and Museum in Hartford.
Early Care and Education—Job Fair

The Wednesday after Christmas, CRT hosted a Job Fair, seeking teachers, and teaching assistants, for its Early Childhood Education program. Once again, Fox 61 was there to help share the story ... CRT’s HR Director Krista Mazzuca was interviewed about the event.

The morning of the Job Fair, Fox 61 mentioned the event six times during their morning newscast, as a part of their "Work in CT" feature.

Interviews are available on CRT’s YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/user/CommunityRenewalTeam/
East Hartford Family Shelter

The bitter cold at the end of December and into the New Year prompted media inquiries about ways to help the homeless in and around Hartford. CRT’s program manager for the East Hartford Family Shelter, Tyeisha Saffold, did interviews with both Fox 61 and WTIC Radio.

The interview on Fox 61 aired 10 times, in various forms, over a 24-hour period. And, the radio interview was also broadcast 10 times in 24 hours.

Interview available on CRT’s YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/user/CommunityRenewalTeam/
Elderly Nutrition Program


Major cuts to meal program leave Middletown seniors scrambling

Mayor Dan Drew, along with Gus Kech-Longo, vice president of senior services for the Community Renewal Team, spoke at the senior center about cuts to the nutrition program on Wednesday to a lunch room full of individuals who had just enjoyed lunch. Middletown Press — Cassandra Day
Machinists Support Seniors
International Association of Machinists Local 700 donated $1,500 to Community Renewal Team Meals on Wheels to close funding shortfall.

By Nancy Pappas (Patch Poster) - February 24, 2017 11:35 am ET

Officer of the International Association of Machinists Local 700 donated $1,500 to Community Renewal Team to help close a funding shortfall in the Middletown “Meals on Wheels” program. CRT delivers daily therapeutic meals to homebound elders and hot lunches to senior centers and apartment complexes. Federal funds have not kept pace with demand, so the current contract covers only about 65% of the meals required to meet the needs in Middlesex County. “We are grateful to private organizations like the Machinists for stepping up and helping seniors,” said CRT President/CEO Lena Rodriguez. “We are actively pursuing other funding so that we can provide the meals that keep older adults healthy!”

For more information or to make a donation please go to www.crt.org

As of April 1, 2017, CRT will provide 8 meals per day on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Haddam Senior Center. The town will pay for any meals over the 8 that are provided in CRT’s contract (CRT charges $9.98/meal). A local organization has come forward and will pay for and provide meals for Seniors on Thursdays, through their funding. However, we need meals provided for Tuesdays in April.

As of May 1, 2017, CRT will provide 8 meals per day on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Haddam Senior Center. The town will pay for any meals over the 8 that are provided in CRT’s contract. We need meals provided for Tuesdays and Thursdays.
Elderly Nutrition Program

In August, CRT marked the 40th anniversary of its program providing hot, nutritious lunches at the Hispanic Senior Center in Hartford. A special hot lunch was served to the seniors that day in honor of this momentous milestone. CRT was joined by representatives from Catholic Charities.

The original agreement to offer this service was signed on August 25, 1977. During that time, CRT has served approximately 364,000 meals at the Hispanic Senior Center.

The local newspaper Identidad Latina covered the story.

CRT celebró 40 años de servir comidas en Hispanic Senior Center

Escríto el 25 Ago 2017

Una emotiva reunión se llevó a cabo en el Hispanic Senior Center de Hartford para celebrar los 40 años de servir comidas a las personas de edad avanzada. Este programa que es ofrecido por CRT (Community Renewal Team) provee de comidas de alta calidad, alta nutrición y lo mejor de todo, subsidiada por esta institución.

A la celebración acudieron Lena Rodriguez, Presidenta de CRT, Joel Cruz, el nuevo Director de Catholic Charities, Marek Kukulka, Presidente de Catholic Charities, Garland Tansley, Director Interino del Programa de Nutrición, Katie Lee, Gerente del Programa de CRT y Ernesto Rojas, Coordinador de Programas de CRT. Todos ellos hablaron a los presentes deseando que se cumplan otros 40 años más de servicio a este Centro.
Elderly Nutrition Program

Back in October, WFSB's Scot Haney wished Happy Birthday to Rose Burns who is now 99-years old. She is a regular attendee at CRT’s community café hosted at the Newington Senior Center. Scot dropped by to wish Rose a happy birthday, and to schmooze with other seniors.
Elderly Nutrition Program / Meals on Wheels

CRT’s Meals on Wheels program was featured in the Hartford Courant—twice—in 2017. The first story by Susan Campbell, and then later in the Hometown Heroes feature which profiled the work of CRT’s Caroline Clark. Ms. Clark was also featured in a separate interview in the Journal Inquirer for their “Conversation with” profile.

Susan Campbell: A Chain Of Caring People Delivers Meals On Wheels

Caroline Clark Feeds The Homebound Elderly

Caroline Clark, CRT Volunteer coordinator
Elderly Nutrition Program / Meals on Wheels

CRT’s Meals on Wheels benefited from various fundraising efforts throughout the year, including a “Buy a Wheel” campaign in East Hampton.

‘Buy a Wheel’ fundraiser benefits Meals on Wheels

ZIOBRAN TO HOST ‘BUY A WHEEL’ FUNDRAISER

EAST HAMPTON >> State Representative Melissa Ziobron (R-34), in coordination with the Community Renewal Team (CRT) and the East Hampton Village Lions Club, is spearheading a “Buy a Wheel” fundraiser in East Hampton.

In an effort to support elderly nutrition programs in East Hampton, Ziobron is coordinating outreach efforts to help provide meals to seniors in our communities. CRT is responsible for the distribution of meals in East Hampton and the surrounding communities.

The drive will kick off the on May 1 and will run for the month at various small businesses in East Hampton. Every dollar raised in East Hampton will go directly to East Hampton’s seniors in need. In addition to this effort, there is also an account established where citizens can send a check in support of their local senior center. That information is posted on www.RepZiobron.com and can be found by clicking “Meals on Wheels.”

Participating businesses in East Hampton include: Subway (36 East High Street), Paul’s and Sandy’s Too (93 East High Street), The Dublin (42 East High Street), Center Package Store (93 Main Street), and Chatham Wine Thieve (42 East High Street).

“East Haddam has seen extreme success with a similar program, and I am hoping this trend continues into East Hampton,” said Ziobron. “Seniors in our community are not receiving adequate nutrition and this is a way we can all pitch in to support the programs in need. The Medallion program is a creative way of encouraging those able in our community to support our local seniors in need.”

While those seeking use of the Meals on Wheels or Senior Community Café programs has dramatically increased, funding has remained stagnant. As a result, many in the community have been put on a waiting list. One hundred percent of the donations received will go directly to East Hampton seniors in need.

“We are very excited to be partnering with the Community Renewal Team, in order to raise funds for the Elderly Nutrition Program at the East Hampton Senior Center,” said East Hampton Senior Center Director Jo Ann Ewing. “Melissa Ziobron has been a critical influence with the Community Renewal Team to initiate the Medallion program. This is another way the community can reach out to help others in our town at a time when funding either doesn’t go as far as it used to because demands and raw costs have increased.”
Elderly Nutrition Program / Meals on Wheels Golf Tournament

In August, CRT’s annual Meals on Wheels golf tournament made the news, as efforts to raise funds to buy a new delivery truck proved to be of interest to local media. The story was featured on both the local NBC and CBS affiliates.

CBS did two interviews with CRT; and NBC’s Jennifer Joas (at right) interviewed CRT’s Ernesto Rios about our Meals on Wheels program.
Energy Assistance Program

In late October, Patricia Monroe-Walker, Director of Energy Services for CRT (pictured below) was on the Fox 61 morning news to discuss our energy assistance and weatherization programs available to residents in Connecticut.

Fox 61 came back in November seeking an “expert” to interview and we once again put Pat Walker in front of the camera. The interview aired – in various edits – 10 times over a three day period!

Pat Walker was also interviewed by Brad and Dan for “Talk of CT” (1360 AM) and on iHeartRadio’s Community Access programs to discuss energy assistance.
Energy Assistance Program

In late December, a reporter with Telemundo New England – new to the area – connected with us to learn more about our programs and services. He decided to do a story that day about CRT’s energy assistance program. He interviewed a member of our program staff who is bi-lingual (English and Spanish). The story ran both on air, and on their website.

Link to story on Telemundo website:
Hartford y sus residentes se preparan para el frio (Hartford and its residents prepare for the cold):
http://bit.ly/CRTtelemundo
Feed the Children event

Helping Feed Hartford! In late July, CRT in conjunction with Feed the Children and PepsiCo hosted the 7th annual event for more than 800 Hartford-area families to receive 40 pounds of food and essentials - over a week's worth of food! CRT worked to identify eligible families. This event was featured in the Hartford Courant, and on three local TV stations (CBS, NBC and Fox 61).

Families In Need Get Food Donations To Fill Summer Void

For parents with children on free school lunch, summer can mean worrying about how to afford meals and snacks.

On Wednesday, volunteers distributed 32,000 pounds of food to 800 families at a time of year when service providers say parents struggle with increased food costs.

Reports on CRT’s YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/user/CommunityRenewalTeam/
9th Annual Gun Buyback event

This annual event is hosted in collaboration with Hartford-area hospitals and the City of Hartford. The mid-December event was featured by multiple news outlets locally, including ABC, Fox 61, WNPR and WTIC Radio. Fox 61 shared the story twice.

The press conference the day before the event was attended by Mayor Bronin, as well as Senators Murphy and Blumenthal – CRT’s Elizabeth Horton Sheff spoke on behalf of the agency that day.

News reports are on CRT’s YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/user/CommunityRenewalTeam/
Hoffman Holiday Baskets

Every December, right before the holidays, the Hoffman Family of the Hoffman Auto Group, Inc. have given generously to help brighten the holiday season for so many of CRT’s clients. These baskets, filled with festive foods to feed a family of 10, truly add to the holiday spirit for the 200 families that received them. The story was covered by Fox 61.

News report on CRT’s YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/user/CommunityRenewalTeam/
Hurricane Relief Efforts

CRT’s President and CEO Lena Rodriguez joined Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin along with other city officials & community agencies at a press conference on Oct. 26 at the Hartford Public Library to share efforts underway to assist families coming to our region from parts of the country devastated by recent hurricanes. The press conference was covered by NBC CT and The Hartford Courant.

Additionally, CRT’s food and winter clothing drive for hurricane victims was featured on Fox 61, and on the radio show “Talk of Connecticut”.

Displaced By A Hurricane? Here Are Resources From Hartford

Community Renewal Team

Community Renewal Team, a community agency that is headquartered in Hartford but has dozens of locations throughout the region, offers aid in areas such as housing, unemployment, early education and senior services.

In recent weeks, CRT has been mobilizing with other organizations to assist new residents who fled Puerto Rico or other hurricane-damaged areas, and so far the agency has served at least 30 people in those relief efforts, CRT President and CEO Lena Rodriguez said Thursday.

Many had basic needs; some were directed toward behavioral health services, she said.

CRT is also providing case management and inviting people in for referrals.

“We can prequalify individuals for food stamps and for other state and federal benefits that are provided through the Department of Social Services,” Rodriguez said. “We want to make sure that families have as smooth a transition as possible coming into the Hartford area, understanding that they have undergone some serious crises.”

Let’s say you have secured a plane ticket out of Puerto Rico and are arriving at Bradley International Airport with little more than the clothes on your back. Now what?
CRT’s McKinney Shelter

Efforts by students from Trinity College benefited the men living at McKinney Shelter in Hartford. This story was featured in the Hartford Courant in May 2017.

Lori Riley: Seeing Homeless Man Gives Trinity Swimmer Doug Curtin Food For Thought

As Doug Curtin drove to the Capitol every day to his internship, he would notice the same homeless man standing on a corner.

“it didn’t sit right with me that right outside this beautiful Capitol where all these people were working, there’s this guy ... I started bringing him food,” said Curtin, who was a Trinity College sophomore at the time. “Like an apple or a bagel from our dining hall — I’d kind of sneak it out and I’d give it to him. We started talking.

Trinity College senior and swim team captain Doug Curtin has helped elevate the status of the swim team over his four years and also started a program to feed the homeless in Hartford through the Trinity dining hall. Once a week, Curtin and members of the swim team collected leftover food from the dining hall and delivered it to the McKinney Shelter in Hartford.
CRT’s McKinney Shelter—Mural

The McKinney Shelter was selected as one of the locations for nine murals that are being painted in Hartford for a project known as “Hartford Paint The City.” This story was featured in the Hartford Courant back in October.

Nine Neighborhood Murals Chosen For Hartford Paint The City

Yuliya Puhach
McKinney Shelter, 34 Huyskope Ave.

Nine artists have been chosen to paint murals in nine locations throughout Hartford. Here are the artists and the locations of the murals. More here.
National Arts Program

Hartford Exposes Incredible Local Talent Once Again

A magnificent collection of 237 artworks were submitted for the Hartford, Connecticut 26th Annual National Arts Program® Exhibit. All forms of visual arts were represented, from paintings and photographs to sculptures, crafts and textiles.

The awards reception took place on January 28th and more than 350 people went to support the 130 local artists that took part in the exhibition. Five judges had the difficult job of choosing the winning artworks including, JoAnne Bauer, Carlos Hernandez Chavez, Ellis Echevarria, Angela Parker and Ed Johnnetta Miller. The judges as well as Lena Rodriguez, the President and CEO of CRT, were on hand at the ceremony to honor the artists.

The awards ceremony was a performance in and of itself, with singers Aja Wilson and Orice Jenkins, pianist Warren Byrd, and live poetry readings by Elphrastic Poets from The Free Poets Collective who once again created original poems about each of the first place entities.

Coordinator Nancy Shapiro does a terrific job coordinating this huge showcase and is the driving force for its' ongoing success. Nancy, CRT and the entire Hartford community are no doubt proud of their NAP show as it is a shining example of the artistic talent and creativity that exists among them.

National Arts/Local Color show hosted by Community Renewal Team

HARTFORD >> Hundreds of artists from Greater Hartford and Middlesex County are featured in National Arts/Local Color, Community Renewal Team’s 26th annual visual art competition and show. The show hangs throughout several floors of Capital Community College, and is open through Feb. 4.

The public is invited to a reception and presentation of awards on Saturday, Jan. 28 at 1 p.m., in the auditorium on the 11th floor of the college, 950 Main St., Hartford.

The event will feature professional jazz artists Aja Wilson and Orice Jenkins, and poems composed by members of the Free Poets Collective to reflect each of the first place works of art. Light refreshments will be served.

Although entry is free, a total of $3,420 in cash prizes is awarded to children, youth and adults at the Amateur, Intermediate and Professional levels. This year’s judges include the following arts professionals: JoAnne Bauer, Carlos Hernandez Chavez, Ellis Echevarria, Patricia Johnson, Tracy Kana, Ed Johnnetta Miller and Angola Parker. The show is underwritten by the National Arts Program and Greater Hartford Arts Council, in cooperation with Capital Community College.

CRT National Arts Awards

On Saturday, January 28, Capital Community College (CCC) in Downtown Hartford hosted an awards ceremony for winners of the 2017 National Arts/Local Color, Community Renewal Team’s 26th annual visual art competition and show. A total of $3,420 in cash prizes was awarded to children, youth and adults at the Amateur, Intermediate and Professional levels in a variety of artistic mediums. The show is underwritten by the National Arts Program and Greater Hartford Arts Council, in cooperation with CCC. Entertainment at the awards ceremony was provided by Jazz vocalists Aja Wilson and Orice Jenkins (above). (Hart photo)
RSVP—Bradley Airport Program

In late October, the Journal Inquirer did a one-on-one interview with long-time CRT volunteer Victor Desjardins for their weekly profile series “Conversation with ...”

Conversation with Victor Desjardins

By Suzanne McLaughlin
Journal Inquirer
Oct 23, 2017 0

Victor Desjardins, 84, of Windsor has been retired from Combustion Engineering since 1995. He bikes, hikes, and works out at the gym and he volunteers. He is one of 50 Bradley International Airport Ambassadors who assist people with questions as they are arriving or departing from the airport. The Ambassador Program is sponsored by the Community Renewal Team of Greater Hartford's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program.
During the summer of 2017, the program was featured in the Hartford Courant and on Fox 61, too.

Hartford Youth Take Advantage Of Opportunities Through Summer Employment

By MARLON PITTER

SEPTEMBER 11, 2017, 7:11 AM | HARTFORD

At 15 years old, Gabriela Santos has her career plan all figured out.

A sophomore at A.I. Prince Technical High School in Hartford, Santos said she had an interest in graphic design when she entered the graphics technology trade. When she explored it first-hand working at Exclusive Linez, she said that’s when it all clicked.

"I had my mind set on graphics, and doing this job has made me so much more open to wanting to be a graphic designer when I’m older,” said Santos. "It’s impacted me so much that my mind’s set.”

Santos was able to work for Exclusive Linez through Community Renewal Team’s summer employment program for Hartford youth. Although the employment period was only five weeks, she said she has gained lasting experience in designing and creating T-shirts, banners and more.

Santos and Tatiana Rodriguez, another CRT summer youth employment participant, quickly made a strong impression on Exclusive Linez owner Rodney Matthews.

Gabriela Santos works at Exclusive Line'z in Hartford as part of her CRT summer internship program in August. CRT offers aid in areas such as housing, unemployment, early education and senior services. (Monica Jorge / Hartford Courant)
Youth Employment Program

Beneficiaries of CRT’s Middletown Youth Employment Program, like Ernesto Vargas, have been featured in local media such as the Middletown Press.

In high school, Vargas participated in the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce’s Middletown Summer Youth Employment and also took part in a workforce development partnership with the Community Renewal Team in the city. A scholarship allowed him to complete barber school.
Tee Off with Women Golf Event

CRT appeared on WFSB News Channel 3 to discuss the 8th Annual "Tee Off With Women to End Domestic Violence" golf tournament, to benefit Interval House and Community Renewal Team.

Interview available on CRT’s YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/user/CommunityRenewalTeam/
Women’s Empowerment

CRT hosted a fundraiser last year to promote its Women’s Empowerment initiative, which featured a premier screening of the hit film Wonder Woman. The event included guest speaker Kara Sundlun from WFSB, News Channel 3, who highlighted the event on the air. Other local media such as the Hartford Courant, Journal Inquirer and Hartford News also promoted this event.
YouthBuild Program

YouthBuild graduate Warren Wells was featured in The Hartford Courant in June 2017.

Hartford Job-Training Program Builds New Lives — And A Ballpark

Warren Wells
Youth Build alt manus

Through carpentry skills developed in the Youth Build program, Warren Wells overcame some troubles early in his life and has joined the carpentry union. In the last year, Wells helped build Dunkin’ Donuts Park.

by Vinny Vella · Contact Reporter

JUNE 12, 2011, 7:12 AM | HARTFORD

W arren Wells talks about Dunkin’ Donuts Park as if he owns it.

He spent four months there ahead of the Yard Goats’ opening day — after “everything got screwed up and we had to fix it,” he clarifies, with a laugh.

On a recent stroll through the park, he points out landmarks. He hung plasterboard in the press box office over there, framed the door for that office, put up ceiling tiles in that concession stand.

“This is going to be part of history, I can tell my kids about that one day,” Wells said. “I’m just proud. I got to see the process of it going up. I was a part of this thing, this building in my city.”

A year and a half ago, Wells, 26, couldn’t read a tape measure. Now, he’s an apprentice carpenter with Local 43 and has left his mark on landmark projects in his hometown, including the Yard Goats’ home and UConn’s new downtown campus.

He owes it all to Capital City YouthBuild, a federally funded program offered through the Community Renewal Team. For nearly a decade, YouthBuild has provided technical training for city youth living in poverty.

In a year, the applicants receive full certification in construction, food service or health care, earning their GEDs along the way.

Just under 600 have graduated from the Hartford chapter in its nine years of existence, with an 80 percent job-placement rate. They’ve found jobs as nurses, chefs and, of course, carpenters.
YouthBuild Program—recruiting

In November and December, recruiting for the YouthBuild job training program’s class for 2018 was featured on the Stan Simpson Show (Fox 61), and on the “Talk of Connecticut” radio show with Brad Davis. It was also promoted as a part of the “Work in CT” feature on Fox 61—that story aired three times. Other CRT staff were interviewed in late December by local radio DJ Marvin Mink on WQTQ 89.9 FM.

Stan Simpson interview is on CRT’s YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/user/CommunityRenewalTeam/
Random Acts of Kindness …

Fox 61 shared this sweet story with their viewers twice: Hartford Police Department officer Randy Finucane dropped by CRT’s employee picnic in late September seeking a new basketball to give to a youngster in the neighborhood whose own ball was ruined … A new employee from CRT happened to have a ball in the trunk of his car, and he was more than happy to give it to a child in need.

HPD + CRT = Happy Kid. #CRTCares

Story available on CRT’s YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/user/CommunityRenewalTeam/

Keep up with CRT’s programs and services via social media:

- Twitter: https://twitter.com/CRTCT
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/crtct/
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/crt_ct/
- LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/255913/

To get in touch with CRT about a story or interview, please contact:
Jason Black, Strategic Communications Specialist @ 860-230-4535 or via email: blackj@crtct.org