



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Larson and Blumenthal Laud CRT on Veterans' Project in Newington** *Assisted living facility will be built on the Newington Veterans Campus*

HARTFORD—Congressman John Larson and Senator Richard Blumenthal are proud to support a recent announcement by The Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C that Community Renewal Team has been selected as the preferred developer for a new Assisted Living Facility for aging or disabled veterans and their spouses. The new location will be constructed and operated at the VA Connecticut Health Care System, Newington Campus.

The residence will include 100 studio- and one-bedroom apartments, as well as many space for activities, dining, medical care and more. This project will be modeled on The Retreat, CRT's award-winning assisted living home for low-income seniors in Hartford. Seniors enjoy a beautiful setting, appropriate medical and social supports, and an outstanding array of activities that support personal growth and community involvement.

"We are excited about the benefits that a new project of this type will offer," said Lena Rodriguez, President/CEO of CRT. "We recognize that bricks-and-mortar alone do not provide stability and a high quality of life. This is where our Steps to Success (STS) strengths-based, holistic case management model would come in to provide the veterans and their families the services they need in order to develop and achieve their short and long-term goals."

The Newington project will build on two of CRT's areas of demonstrated expertise: Assisted living for low-income seniors and services to Veterans.

"I am very pleased to see that the Department of Veterans Affairs has chosen our very own Community Renewal Team as their preferred developer for a new assisted living facility for veterans and their spouses," Congressman John Larson said. "The Community Renewal Team has a strong track record of creating top-notch, assisted living facilities as evidence by 'The Retreat' in Hartford. Our veterans deserve the best care possible from the moment they put on the uniform, to when they return home and throughout their years ahead. I look forward to the completion of this project, which will once again ensure the highest quality of veterans care at VA Connecticut Healthcare System."

CRT also operates a 12-bed transitional residence for homeless veterans in East Hartford, and is the state's only provider of Supportive Services for Veteran Families, designed to help very low income Veteran families who are at risk of homelessness.

"As our veterans return home, we must keep faith with them and provide the services they need. I am proud to have supported this effort and very pleased that the Community Renewal Team has been chosen to undertake this important project of providing a place for military veterans and their families to access affordable, assisted housing when they return home," said Senator Richard Blumenthal, in a statement released October 26.

For more information about CRT's Veteran Services, please contact Christopher McCluskey at (860) 560-5770.

### **Background on Relevant CRT Programs**

**The Retreat**, located in downtown Hartford, was among the first programs to open under the State of CT's demonstration program for Medicaid-funded assisted living, and is the first assisted living in CT built in an urban area. As of September 2011, The Retreat has been home to approximately 344 seniors. Of those seniors, approximately 147 of them had either moved out of nursing homes back into the community or had avoided premature nursing home placement. Through supporting seniors in a less restrictive environment, CRT has enhanced their quality of life, while saving the State of Connecticut approximately \$3.2M in long term care costs annually, or approximately \$19.2M to date. CRT also provides 50 units of affordable housing for independent seniors at Coventry Place (Bloomfield) and St. Michael's Place (Hartford.)

CRT also operates a 12-bed VA Grant and Per Diem Program, **Veterans Crossing**, located in East Hartford. This transitional residence helps two underserved groups in Connecticut: chronically homeless veterans and recently incarcerated veterans released from correctional facilities. Veterans Crossing was developed in consultation with CRT's military veteran clients in our housing programs, with the Veteran's Administration, the VA Connecticut Healthcare System, members of the Hartford Continuum of Care, through visits to other homeless veterans programs and participation in homeless veterans' conferences. Intensive case management helps Veterans access health services, reunite with their family members, obtain jobs, save money, and obtain their own permanent housing.

In Fall 2011, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs awarded CRT the only contract in Connecticut for Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), a program which is designed to serve at least 175 very low income Veteran families each year. Staff identify those who are at risk for homelessness, or who have already lost their housing. Services include eviction or foreclosure mediation and prevention; rapid re-housing when necessary; and wrap-around services to help the families toward long term stability.

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