



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Candlelight Vigil Honors Victims of Domestic Violence**

*Community conversation led by Alvin Notice seeks solidarity in ending abuse*

HARTFORD—At dusk on Thursday, Oct. 20, members from the Hartford community joined together for a candlelight vigil in front of the Community Renewal Team's (CRT) Generations Campus to honor victims of domestic violence and to focus attention on this difficult issue.

The vigil coincided with the observance of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month as well as CRT's ongoing Campaign to End Domestic Violence.

"This event helps us focus on the hope we have of putting a stop to the fear, terror and pain experienced by children and families who fall victim to domestic violence," CRT's President and CEO Lena Rodriguez told the crowd of approximately 60 supporters.

Alvin Notice, whose daughter Tiana was killed in a domestic violence incident, was the event's keynote speaker.

"We need to ask ourselves how we can make a difference and help victims that are really suffering each and every day," Notice said. "I am here to affirm with you that when we work together as a group, can prevent others from having to go through these tragedies of domestic violence."

Notice's daughter Tiana was stabbed and killed in her home on Valentine's Day in 2009 at the age of 25 by her boyfriend, James Carter, who had repeatedly violated a restraining order that prohibited contact with her. Carter is currently on trial for murder in Superior Court. The judge in the case recently granted a request from the state to allow Notice to attend the trial. Notice is a considered a witness, and witnesses normally are sequestered.

Notice co-founded the Tiana Angelique Notice Memorial Foundation after his daughter's death and has worked tirelessly to advocate for state and local support of initiatives including a program that installs security cameras outside homes of domestic violence victims as well as a bill that would require GPS tracking technology on domestic abusers.

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Other speakers at the vigil included the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence Interim Executive Director Karen Jarmoc, State Representative and Connecticut's DV Task Force Chair Mae Flexer, Senator Blumenthal's Deputy State Director Paul Mounds and the State of CT Victim Advocate Michelle Cruz.

National research studies conclude that one in every four women will experience an abusive relationship at some time in her life. According to the CT Department of Public Safety Family Violence Crimes report, Hartford County has by far the highest rate of family violence crimes in the State of CT – 760 incidents per year per 100,000 inhabitants. The same report notes that in 2009, 3,960 women were the victims of such crimes in Hartford County.

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence says that on any given day, more than 1,000 victims seek help and support from CCADV's 18 member programs. More than 54,000 unduplicated people are helped by these organizations throughout the year.

***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. Please visit [www.crtct.org](http://www.crtct.org).

#### **About CRT Generations**

*Hartford's Generations campus, an affordable rental property, is one of the first of its kind to be built in the state. It is located in the City of Hartford's Northeast Neighborhood and consists of 40 rental apartments with two sections; one for grandparents raising their grandchildren and the other for seniors. Case management, recreation and other programming is offered on-site for grandparents with legal custody of their grandchildren.*

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