



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Dan Armstrong, Communications Specialist
(860) 560-5636 or (217) 710-1815

CRT Generations “Big Green Cleanup Day” Expects More Than 300 Volunteers *Sen. Blumenthal to join event for Earth Day, Youth Service Day and Comcast Cares Day April 30*

An Earth Day project at CRT Generations isn't just a cleanup. It's a celebration that's truly global in scope.

More than 300 volunteers are expected on Saturday, April 30, to clean up and green up several blocks in Hartford's North End in recognition of Global Youth Service Day, Earth Day and Comcast Cares Day. Generations, an affordable housing campus for grandfamilies and seniors operated by Community Renewal Team Inc., will sponsor and host the fourth annual neighborhood beautification day, which will be followed by a community block party.

Senator Richard Blumenthal is expected to visit the event at 9 a.m. to make remarks during the planting of a memorial tree for a Generations grandmother who recently passed away. He will be joined in speaking by Mary McLaughlin, Senior Vice President of Comcast's Western New England Region, and representatives from CRT.

The cleanup will run from 8:30 a.m. to noon and cover a multi-block area several-block radius around the campus at 35 Clark Street. Hundreds of volunteers from groups including Comcast, Knox Parks, Catholic Workers, UConn and more are expected to turn out for the event. Volunteers will clean up the streets, plant nine trees, create a community garden, and teams from Comcast will give a much-needed trim to trees along the streets using bucket trucks – the first cleanup to do so.

All volunteers will be rewarded at 12:30 p.m. with a block party featuring a cook-out, musical performances, crafts, motorcycle display, stilt walkers, and a basketball tournament. Resource partners also will be on hand to provide services, including Ident-A-Kid, free haircuts from PEP, St. Francis Hospital bike safety show, CRT and more. Lunch and water will be provided.

“This event has grown from a small activity for our families into now being a major event with partners from throughout the community,” said Carmen Stanford, CRT Generations program manager. “It's unfortunate that a lot of people have an idea about different neighborhoods in our city as just being dangerous or run-down, when the reality is that there are a lot of amazing people and neighborhoods collaborating to make a tangible and positive difference. This event is a great example of what can be done when the community comes together.”

Community partners for the event include Knox Parks, Capitol City Ryders, Clark Elementary School, Comcast, the City of Hartford, Citadel of Love, Home Depot, Panera Bread, UConn, Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, Catholic Workers, Hartford Police and Fire Departments, and several neighborhood businesses, churches and families.

The streets covered by the cleanup are Main, Capen, Westland, Barbour, Elmer, Judson and Clark. Hartford Police will close access to Clark Street from Capen, Elmer, Nelson, Judson and Westland Streets from 12:30 – 3 p.m. for the event. Volunteers are welcome the day of the event and should park either at the Clark Street School or in the rear parking lot at St. Michael’s Church. Volunteers must sign in at 35 Clark Street.

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Community Renewal Team, Inc. is the 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.