



Community Renewal Team
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MEDIA RELEASE

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CRT Women's Golf Tournament Raises \$28K for Domestic Violence Survivors

3rd Annual Tee Off With Women Tournament in Avon Nets Critical Funds for CRT, Interval House

AVON—Eighty-five women golfers hit the links in Avon for a great cause July 10, aiming to sink domestic violence in Connecticut. Almost \$30K was raised from the golfers and through sponsorships that will be applied directly to the Community Renewal Team and Interval House's programs that benefit domestic violence survivors. Ace sponsor United Parcel Service, Inc. (UPS) donated \$20K toward the event.

The pivotal moment of the day came during remarks before dinner when Crystal Garrett, 31, a domestic violence survivor from Hartford, told her personal story of strangulation and beating she suffered while in an abusive relationship in 2009. Her vivid memory was a testament to her determination in seeking a better life through help from family, friends and support services.

"One of the biggest things that I have to remember from my brush with death—being a pregnant mother at the time—is that I am not alone, and I have to be strong so others can be strong," said Garrett. "I have real goals in mind for my future, and this man has not ended my life."

Garrett received a standing ovation under the banquet tent—and the other speakers remarked on how her story should help raise awareness of a difficult and pervasive issue.

State Representative Mae Flexer, the Connecticut Domestic Violence Task Force Chair, made remarks at start of the tournament in the morning along with Acting State Child Advocate Mickey Kramer—who served as the Tee Off co-chair along with CT Speaker of the House Chris Donovan, who was unable to attend the tournament. The event emcee was FOX CT reporter Laurie Perez, who interviewed Garrett last week for a story featured on FOX's 4pm newscast.

"Events like this play an essential role in our ability to raise awareness along with critical funds that allow us and Interval House to keep doors open to women that come to us in a time of need," said CRT's President and CEO Lena Rodriguez. "'Tee Off' is also a chance to have fun and allow for women to support other women in stamping out domestic violence across our communities."

A local investment manager and bagpiper, Nancy Fellingner of Simsbury, provided stirring musical accompaniment as the golfers loaded their carts and drove on to their starting points on the course. As everyone returned from the course they were treated to a great collection of raffle prizes, hair-styling, chair massages, fresh sushi and other delightfully pampered offerings before dinner was served.

Lisa Wilson-Foley, who is the owner of the Blue Fox Run Golf Course and also running for the hotly contested 5th Congressional District race, thanked the golfers for coming out to the course.

“We’re proud to host events like this that shine a light on tough issues in a positive way, and kudos to all the women supporting other women,” Wilson-Foley said.

UPS representatives Diane Hagi and Sandra Stafford sported warm smiles as they handed CRT’s Rodriguez and Interval House’s Executive Director Cecile Enrico the oversized check for \$20,000.

“We’re delighted to have the opportunity again to continue strengthening the relationship between CRT and UPS through this inspiring event,” said Hagi, the North Atlantic District Manager for UPS. “You should all be proud to be here because our support together makes a difference.”

Along with the yearly contribution UPS has provided ‘Tee Off,’ the company has helped establish a community garden in Hartford and has also provided a generous grant that secured new computers for 25 CRT Early Care and Education classrooms.

Community Renewal Team’s domestic violence support programs help families leaving Interval House establish safe and successful lives by providing transitional housing and support services through CRT’s intensive case management system. Assistance comes in many forms depending on the needs of the individual. Often times help offered includes: security deposit assistance, first month’s rent, subsidized food, clothing and transportation. Housing assistance continues to allow survivors to move in a safe, secure environment where they are able to function independently and at a higher capacity to meet their daily needs.

By offering scattered-site housing, the program empowers the individual to take control of their life back by allowing them to select the town or area within Hartford County in which they would like to live. Other CRT support services offered to participants in this program include job training, educational assistance, legal advocacy, safety planning, financial literacy training, support groups, crisis intervention, child care, translation and transportation services.

Interval House runs a 24-hour emergency hotline as well the state’s largest emergency shelter for women and children victims of domestic violence, open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The event is part of CRT’s ongoing Campaign to End Domestic Violence, which can be read about at www.crtct.org/EndDomesticViolence

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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. www.crtct.org