

MEDIA RELEASE

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Mark Shriver Keynotes CRT's 50th Anniversary Celebration

Gala is co-chaired by State Sen. Eric Coleman, Mark Maselli and Dr. Elsa Nunez

HARTFORD— Community Renewal Team (CRT) proudly announces that Mark Shriver, son of the late human development activist R. Sargent Shriver, will be the keynote speaker at the agency's 50th celebration on May 15, 2013. Mark Shriver has recently completed a book about his father, who is widely credited as the architect of Pres. Lyndon B. Johnson's "War on Poverty," which gave rise to social improvement initiatives such as Community Action and Head Start fifty years ago.

The celebration is dubbed 'CRT's 50th Anniversary Gala, Celebrating 50 Years of Changing Lives,' and takes place at the Marriott Downtown at 5:30 p.m. Proceeds of the Gala will support [Veterans Landing](#), an affordable assisted living residence which CRT is building in Newington, CT for lower and moderate-income veterans and their spouses. Once completed, Veterans Landing will be one of the first developments of its kind in the nation.

CRT was one of the first Community Action Programs in the country – organizing even before the enabling legislation passed in Washington D.C. – and was an early pilot site for Head Start. From those roots, CRT has grown into a comprehensive agency that assists 130,000 people annually in more than 60 cities and towns.

An advocate for at-risk children in his own right, Mark Shriver is Senior Vice President of US Programs for Save the Children. His new book, "A Good Man: Rediscovering My Father, Sargent Shriver" details many of the accomplishments of his dedicated and energetic parent. As head of the Office of Economic Opportunity, Sargent Shriver led the start-up of VISTA, the Job Corps, Upward Bound, Foster Grandparents, Legal Services and Neighborhood Health Services, among other programs. He was also the driving force behind the creation of the Peace Corps, and served as its first director.

Mark Shriver's address will be the highlight of a gala that is co-chaired by State Sen. Eric Coleman of Bloomfield, who served for many years on the CRT Board of Trustees; Mark Maselli, President/CEO of Community Health Center in Middletown, a former member and President of the Board of Directors of Community Action for Greater Middletown (which merged with CRT in 1999); and Dr. Elsa Nunez, President of Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic.

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The gala features dinner, dancing, and a tribute to CRT's partners and staff, and their impact on more than 5 million people across three generations. Sponsorship opportunities, event tickets and all other important gala information are available at www.crtct.org. An interactive timeline featuring CRT through the last fifty years in historical photos and factoids showcases CRT's impact in CT communities on all CRT Gala webpages.

For nearly 50 years, CRT has been changing lives and creating opportunity for individuals and families throughout Central Connecticut. As part of a national network of more than 1,100 Community Action Agencies, CRT helps people address immediate needs – including food, fuel and shelter – and work toward a more prosperous future.

In addition to its familiar programs, including Head Start, Meals on Wheels and Energy Assistance, CRT builds affordable housing for families and seniors, provides mental health services to under-insured individuals, and offers support to veterans who are homeless or at risk of losing their homes.

For direct information about CRT's 50th Anniversary Gala, please contact Nancy Shapiro at (860) 560-5471 or at nancys@crtct.org.

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In its 50th anniversary 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 change their lives and create their own opportunities in becoming self-reliant 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. Visit the NEW www.crtct.org. CRT invites the community to celebrate 50 years of changing lives at the Hartford Marriott Downtown on May 15, 2013. Details on sponsorships and tickets available on the CRT website.