

MEDIA RELEASE

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Ovation Benefits Employees Give Head Start a Helping Hand

Employee benefits company donates books, time and elbow grease to make a difference

HARTFORD—Graffiti artists of a different sort visited Community Renewal Team’s Locust Street Early Care and Education Center recently. More than 40 employees from Ovation Benefits came to lend a helping hand and even an artistic brush as the team painted the ABCs in bold, bright bubble letters along the playground wall.

While some employees painted the mural and other playground areas, still more cleared the playground of debris and organized an outdoor storage shed.

The Ovation Benefits team, who came from Farmington, also presented 17 lending library boxes, which were filled to the brim with donated children’s books, enabling children in the Locust Street Center’s programs to check out books to take home and read just like at their local library.

Bill Carew, managing principal for Ovation, said they day was a perfect chance to get outside and see the impact first hand of the work that CRT does. “Working together like this outside builds camaraderie and helps open your eyes instead of being stuck behind a desk,” Carew said. “Sometimes you can forget that’s not where the world begins and ends.”

CRT’s Locust Street Center serves more than 300 children from six weeks to five years of age, offering them high quality, licensed childcare and education. Across the state, CRT serves more than 1,400 children in its centers, all of which use the nationally respected Creative Curriculum, ensuring all children enter public school ready to learn and succeed.

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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.