

MEDIA RELEASE

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Thousands of Head Start Kids and Families Celebrate in Bushnell Park

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus treat crowd to Chinese acrobatics, clowns and CircusFit

HARTFORD – More than 3,000 excited pre-school children, their families and friends are getting ready for Community Renewal Team’s sixth annual end-of-year Head Start celebration to be held at **Bushnell Park on Thursday, May 8.**

Children will arrive at 9 a.m. Thursday along with teachers, families and friends for a full morning of bounce houses, drumming sessions, balloon animals, magic shows, a petting zoo and Nancy Tucker children’s songs. Fire engines and mounted police will also be present for children and their families to explore and experience.

At 11 a.m. Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus performers will wow the crowd with their hilarious and mischievous clowns, amazing Chinese acrobats and a demonstration of CircusFit, a fun fitness program the circus stars use to stay on top of their game. CircusFit combines circus skills with stretching, strength building and aerobic exercise. The CircusFit session will get the entire crowd moving and show how keeping fit can be a fun activity the entire family can enjoy together.

“Our Head Start event in Bushnell Park is a joyous celebration of all that our CRT children and their teachers have achieved this year,” said Lena Rodriguez, CRT Chief Executive Officer and President. “Our children love to see the circus performers at our celebrations and CircusFit’s message of healthy lifestyles and staying active is so important to children’s overall well-being, especially in light of the risks of obesity facing America’s youth today.”

Media are invited to photograph and interview Head Start families, teachers and students. CRT Early Care and Education programs, including Head Start, serves more than 1,300 students in 84 classrooms in Hartford, Middletown, Bloomfield, Clinton, Portland and Windsor. Services are offered to lower and middle-income families on a free or sliding-fee basis. CRT uses the research-validated Creative Curriculum, which meets the standards of the NAEYC and the Connecticut Department of Education.

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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 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 www.crtct.org.