



MEDIA RELEASE

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Community Renewal Team's Hartford Shelter Gets a Makeover *St. Ann Church volunteers spruce up McKinney Shelter for Homeless Men*

HARTFORD - Community Renewal Team's McKinney Shelter received some TLC on Saturday, May 3, thanks to volunteers from St. Ann's Church in Avon. Members of the St. Ann Cares group, which is part of St. Ann's Social Justice Committee, gave their time, talent and elbow grease to repair, paint, build and renovate throughout the men's homeless shelter.

More than a dozen volunteers worked throughout the day painting walls and doors inside, as well as the huge red rolling front doors of the firehouse-turned-shelter. Volunteers even built custom-made shelving for the food pantry and completed other needed renovations. Among the volunteers was Joe Zone, WFSB - Channel 3 Eyewitness News Sports Director, who lent a hand in painting.

McKinney Shelter offers 88 overnight beds, dinner, breakfast, and showers for homeless men age 18 and older who can walk independently and are willing to obey shelter rules. Beds are assigned on a first-come first-served basis. Preference may be given to Hartford residents. A single stay can last up to 90 days. Medical screening and immunization provided. Case managers assist with employment and housing, and make referrals to other services. Staff speaks English and Spanish. A day program for men with medical needs operates at the shelter. Staff helps with housing, jobs, counseling, drug/alcohol use, mental illness, HIV/AIDS and other issues. Lunch is offered to day program participants.

For 20 years, St. Ann Cares has worked to make the most good for the most people throughout the Hartford Archdiocese. St. Ann Cares volunteers have given more than 20,000 hours of their time and \$308,000 in monetary support and donations to benefit thousands of individuals and non-profits.

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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.