

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Liz Newberg, Communications Specialist (860) 560-5636 or cell: (860) 324-1403

## **Head Start and Preschool Openings at Select CRT Centers**

First 200 children to enroll receive a CRT back pack, parents receive gift card

HARTFORD – With spots still available in Community Renewal Team's Head Start and Preschool Centers, teachers at CRT are encouraging parents in Hartford and Middlesex counties to consider enrolling their children in CRT's preschool programs even if they are on waiting lists at other area schools. CRT Head Start and Preschool offers a stimulating educational environment for children throughout the school year or until space opens on waiting lists. This translates to a zero loss in learning time for children.

The first 200 children to enroll in CRT's Head Start or Preschool Program will receive a free CRT backpack filled with goodies, including pencils, notebook, dental care kit and a children's book. After 30 days of a child's attendance, parents will receive a \$10 Walmart gift card. For enrollment information on CRT's Head Start and Preschool Program, call (860) 560-5401 or email ECE@crtct.org.

Attending one of CRT's accredited Head Start or Preschool programs while on a wait list means a child is able to take full advantage of valuable learning time that otherwise may be missed. Children don't lose their place on any waiting list and are free to change to another school at any time. Most importantly, children are provided with enriching and nurturing educational opportunities, rather than waiting without the structure and stimulation of a school setting. Many CRT teachers are bilingual English and Spanish as well.

"We want to make sure that every child receives a quality, early-childhood education because we know what a positive impact a head start in school can mean to a child's success in later school years," said Emilie Montgomery, CRT Director of Early Care and Education. "We want children to be able to take advantage of this valuable learning time for as long as possible, rather than sitting at home waiting for a space to open. What's even better for parents is that many CRT programs are either free or offered on a sliding scale to make them more affordable for a young family."

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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 <a href="https://www.crtct.org">www.crtct.org</a>.