



Community Renewal Team
Changing lives... Creating opportunity!

MEDIA RELEASE

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Women's Golf Tournament Raises Funds, Awareness for Domestic Violence

5th Annual Tee Off With Women in Newington Benefits CRT, Interval House

NEWINGTON—More than 100 women golfers hit the links at Indian Hill Country Club July 29 to show their support for domestic violence survivors and the programs that assist them. Together, golfers and sponsors brought in \$33,000 during the event. Proceeds will be divided evenly between Community Renewal Team and Interval House programs that aim to prevent domestic violence and assist survivors.

The tournament happened to be played on the same day that the 2014 Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee report was issued. The Fatality Review report made a series of recommendations to strengthen communication among agencies like CRT that come into contact with victims. This year alone saw 10 deaths in Connecticut from domestic violence.

CRT President and Chief Executive Officer Lena Rodriguez called the statistics staggering as she stated that across the country three women are killed each day.

"Events like this allow us to raise awareness along with critical funds that allow us and Interval House to keep doors open to women who come to us when they face a crisis," she said. "'Tee Off' also provides a great opportunity for women to help other women. And when that happens -when we support each other - great things can be done."

Key domestic violence advocates were on hand to help promote awareness of the issue, including honorary chairwoman State Rep. Mae Flexer who is chair of the Speaker's Task Force on Domestic Violence at the Connecticut General Assembly. Flexer noted that one of four women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime. She said the public needs to stop asking why a woman stays with an abuser and start asking why that abuser thinks it's acceptable to treat a woman in such a way.

"When someone gets robbed, we don't ask why they didn't donate all their money to charity. But when it's about domestic violence, we blame the victim," Flexer said.

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The most compelling moments of the day came as Diana, a Farmington resident and a former client of Interval House, shared her story of escaping abuse, driving hundreds of miles with her three children and finding a safe place with Interval House, Connecticut's largest emergency shelter for women and children victims of domestic violence. Today, she is focused on pursuing a career, finishing her Bachelor's Degree and enjoying a life with her children where she no longer feels afraid.

As golfers returned from the course they were treated to a great collection of raffle prizes, make overs, chair massages, handmade pottery and homemade cake balls and treats that were for sale before dinner was served.

Community Renewal Team's domestic violence support programs help families leaving a shelter or violent relationship to establish safe and successful lives by providing transitional housing and support services through CRT's intensive case management system. Assistance comes in many forms depending on the needs of the individual. Often times help offered includes: security deposit assistance, first month's rent, subsidized food, clothing and transportation. Housing assistance continues to allow survivors to move in a safe, secure environment where they are able to function independently and at a higher capacity to meet their daily needs.

By offering scattered-site housing, the program empowers the individual to take control of their life back by allowing them to select the town or area within Hartford County in which they would like to live. Other CRT support services offered to participants in this program include job training, educational assistance, legal advocacy, safety planning, financial literacy training, support groups, crisis intervention, child care, and translation and transportation services.

Interval House runs a 24-hour emergency hotline. The hotline and their shelters are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Please see the Tee Off With Women webpage for photos and more information:
www.crtct.org/en/events/womens-golf-tournament

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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 become self-sufficient 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. www.crtct.org