

CRT

50

years of

CHANGING LIVES



Community Renewal Team
Changing lives... Creating opportunity!

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

50 YEARS



CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY
More than **1,000 volunteers** have participated in the annual Earth Day clean-up organized by Generations – CRT's community for seniors and grandparents raising grandchildren.



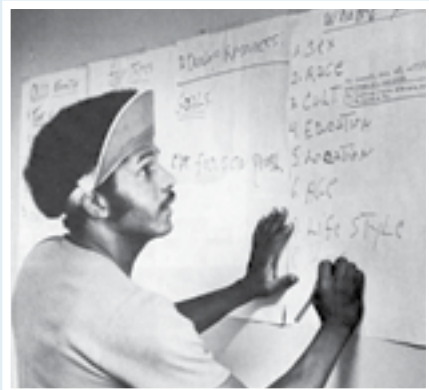
DELICIOUS AND NUTRITIOUS
In 2013, CRT's Summer Food Program served **58,721 free meals** to low-income children in seven communities (up 13% from 2012), and for the first time provided 776 meals to their parents.



CHILDREN ARE THE FUTURE
The Idella Howell Center in Middletown is one of **17 locations** in six communities where CRT provides high-quality preschool and child care for more than **1,400 children in 83 classrooms**.



BRINGING SERVICES TOGETHER
To serve participants as conveniently as possible, CRT brings **multiple services** together under one roof, including clinical programs, energy assistance, weatherization and family support.



MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES
All of CRT's programs including Alternatives in the Community, in Enfield, use **research-based** curricula to introduce participants to new skills and support good decision-making.

Messages From President And Chairman	4
Taking Steps to Success	6
Building the Workforce	8
Seniors Give Back	10
Home Sweet Home	12
Supporting Veterans	14
Financials	16
Funders and Donors	17
50th Anniversary Gala	20
A Year in Pictures	21
Program Listing	24

CONTENTS



STAYING WARM IN WINTER
CRT's Energy Assistance program processed more than **29,000 applications** in the winter of 2012-2013, and the Energy Call Center handled more than **93,783 calls** in ten months.

50 years of CHANGING LIVES

TIMELINE 1963 - 2013 ▶▶

Throughout its 50-year history, the Community Renewal Team has been a catalyst for change, working on the front lines of progress. In 1963, the founders convened a broad-based coalition committed to helping Greater Hartford residents overcome poverty and become more economically stable and independent. The following year, CRT joined

a national movement of Community Action Programs, as Pres. Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty focused the nation on equality and opportunity. Please follow this timeline to see some of the ways that CRT has been living our mission, 'Preparing Our Community to Meet Life's Challenges,' over the last half-century.

Message from the President

“The Community Renewal Team will be concerned with the hopes, fears, rights, opportunities and aspirations of all people in all parts of Greater Hartford.” – First CRT Policy Statement, February 13, 1963

Five decades ago, a group of dedicated and profoundly hopeful leaders came together to draft a plan for addressing poverty and improving the living conditions in the Hartford area. This plan was endorsed by 30 organizations in the region, who agreed to collaborate on creating a new type of agency – one which would leverage services, enlist new allies and conduct advocacy on behalf of disadvantaged people.

Fifty years is a tremendous milestone, a half century of helping people from all over Connecticut to shape a more hopeful and prosperous future for themselves, for their families, and for their communities.

They saw Greater Hartford as a vibrant, thriving region... and yet far too many people were being left behind. People who needed job skills, language skills, better education and decent housing.

And so they looked for a way to focus the necessary resources and expertise on these concerns.

To address discrimination and unsafe conditions in housing ... To provide vocational training and match workers with appropriate jobs ... To improve the quality and availability of preschool and child care... To put nutritious food on every table... And to help people build savings, so they could make long term changes in their lives.

Today we inherit this legacy – which gives us both the right and the responsibility to offer bold and innovative solutions to some of our region’s most pressing problems.

Over this half-century, we have evolved into a more sophisticated organization, assessing participants’ strengths and needs, determining the optimal resources to address those needs, and measuring progress in an objective manner. Our case managers are trained by nationally-known experts in Motivational Interviewing and other best practices of their

field. And we have developed our own software, which embeds our principles of case management and data collection in an intuitive and streamlined format.

In this Annual Report, you will meet real people who have benefited from this approach. CRT fosters independence and builds skills among people of all ages – from the youngest infant in our accredited child care programs to the oldest senior in our award-winning assisted living community.

The coming year brings another very important 50th anniversary, the commemoration of a Declaration of War on Poverty by President Lyndon Johnson. The services and safety net that came out of that effort – including food programs for the elderly, Medicare and Medicaid, Head Start and more – lowered the poverty levels in the nation for several decades. But today this safety net is under attack, and the funding for basic services is either flat or declining.

We call on our partners and collaborators to join us and stand strong. To demonstrate the energy and the vision that characterized the pioneers 50 years ago. We must be creative, and innovate during this difficult time of diminishing resources, in order to continue to offer people the opportunity to change their lives and those of others in the region.

In this way, we will keep the promise of community action – helping people and changing lives.



Lena Rodriguez
President and CEO



Message from the Chairman



As the Community Renewal Team closes out this 50th anniversary year, I want to take time to reflect on the tremendous strength of this organization, and the ways that it has changed the community. CRT empowers individuals and families to change their own lives by helping them identify their own goals, set benchmarks, and muster the resources they will need to meet those goals. In this Annual Report, you will see the value of this work, as reflected in the lives of those who work with this agency.

This is a time of shrinking resources for human services. The harmful automatic cuts to the federal budget, known as sequestration, threaten hundreds of thousands of jobs and cut vital services for children, seniors, people with disabilities and more.

For example, in early 2013, CRT sustained a cut of nearly 6% in its federal Head Start funding, and expects to see a similar cut in 2014.

Additionally, the 16-day government shutdown held CRT and other organizations hostage, jeopardizing funding for programs that house the vulnerable, feed the elderly, keep vulnerable households warm, and much more.

Yet I must tell you that the more challenges that CRT faces, the more reliable and self-reliant it becomes. Through sequestration, through the government shutdown, through great fiscal uncertainty, CRT keeps improving the way that its services are delivered in the community.



Board of Directors, 1974

Here is one illustration: CRT is moving toward consolidating more services under one roof, to streamline the participants’ experience. This year, CRT created a Multi-Service Center on Market Street, in a building that already housed the agency’s primary Behavioral Health Clinic. Customers will now find more than 20 services in this building, from Access to Recovery to Weatherization. By co-locating several departments here, CRT facilitates referrals and pulls together the resource teams that will help clients make progress.

CRT has been a steadfast and unwavering part of this community, and it will persist even in the face of this financial uncertainty. At our 50th anniversary gala, Mark Kennedy Shriver referred to his father, Sargent Shriver, who helped to create the Community Action movement. “I know that my father would have been thrilled to see the ways that Community Action is still important, still relevant, in today’s world. Your work still matters to our nation.”

I could not agree more. On behalf of the board I want to express our gratitude and appreciation of the work that’s done every day by more than 800 CRT staff members. Mr. Shriver is right. This is important work.



Fernando Betancourt
Chair of CRT Board of Trustees

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50 years of CHANGING LIVES

Foundation for Renewal



1962-63

Concerned with persistent poverty and inequality, a broad-based coalition creates The Community Renewal Team of Greater Hartford to improve employment, housing, education, neighborhood life and access to services.

War on Poverty



1964

President Lyndon B. Johnson announces the War on Poverty and the Economic Opportunity Act, creating a network of Community Action Partners. Already active in housing and employment, CRT will be one of the first certified CAPs in the country.

Representation



1965

Competition is brisk at the first annual election of neighborhood representatives to serve on CRT’s board. Some districts have higher participation than in municipal elections. One-third of Community Action Agency boards must represent the communities receiving services.

Taking Steps to Success

Becoming a single mother through a divorce. Developing facial paralysis called Bell's palsy. Losing a job and exhausting all savings. Relocating to a new state. This sounds like a recipe for failure.

But that was not the case for Tabitha Lewis, thanks to CRT's wrap-around Steps to Success case management.

"I was 38 years old, going through a big change and didn't know where to start," Tabitha recalls. "But once I connected with CRT, everything just fell in place."

Like thousands of other families, Tabitha first came to CRT looking for quality preschool for her son. The state's Birth to 3 program was working with Caleb for his delayed speech, and referred Tabitha to CRT's **HEAD START** center in Middletown. And that's when things really started to change.

Caleb really blossomed: He began to focus in class and use words to express himself; the social interactions helped improve his behavior. At home, Tabitha reinforced both the academic and social lessons. Soon she found he could read – although he was only three.

Caleb wasn't the only one making progress. Tabitha met with CRT case managers who conducted an in-depth assessment across 18 areas such as housing, education, and income, rating each from 'In Crisis' to 'Thriving.'

The assessment pointed to one immediate crisis: She was behind on her rent and in danger of eviction. CRT helped Tabitha access a local **EVICTION PREVENTION PROGRAM**, which provided \$1,000 in back rent and stabilized

the family's housing. Next she began to set long term goals, and determine the steps that would get her there. She wanted a steady job at a decent rate of pay, and a chance to advance into an interesting career.

Tabitha enrolled in CRT's **CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT PROGRAM**, which requires long days of academic classes and clinical practice. But she excelled, found work almost immediately, and is continuing her studies: She will soon have her Patient Care Technician certification.

Coming to CRT for Head Start "opened doors for me too, not just for my son," Tabitha said. "It gave me the time to work on me ... I was put in touch with programs to better myself, improve my prospects."

"Everyone wants to do well, to be prosperous. But I had no idea there were services like this that could help me with education, and help me not get evicted. I just wanted to be able to provide the best I could for my child."

Today Caleb is in kindergarten and thriving. Tabitha is in a career she enjoys, and looks forward to opportunities for growth.

Remembering the tough times she's been through, Tabitha tears up and recalls going to the CRT offices in Middletown when her world was falling apart and she didn't know where to turn for help.

Tabitha has come so far since then and continues with determination to move forward to an even better future. "Just knowing every day that it's another step in the right direction," she said. "It's just an open door, it's safe and I'm gonna make it happen."



The Holistic CRT Approach

From the beginning, CRT looked beyond the immediate need that brought a client to our door. Today we call this approach 'Steps to Success,' but the early staff simply called it 'case work.'

CRT's 1966 Annual Report describes a mother of seven hoping to relocate her family to a safer apartment. But large, affordable apartments were so scarce that CRT suggested another approach: They negotiated with the landlord for extensive repairs, installed a telephone and obtained sturdy furniture.

When the mother revealed additional concerns, staff found medical, mental health and dental providers willing to work with the family. They enrolled the youngest children in an education program.

Just one month after the initial contact, the mother called CRT to express her gratitude and to say that she was "one of the happiest people in Hartford."

The modern **Steps to Success** builds on this legacy. This comprehensive case management helps participants establish their own measurable goals and design action plans with clear benchmarks to meet those goals. In 2013, more than 7,300

households were engaged with this model of service delivery.

Assessment and Outcomes
To establish a baseline, the CRT case manager takes a full assessment of assets and challenges across 18 different areas, including income, employment, housing, education and more. This assessment and the participants' own goals are incorporated into an Individual Service Plan (ISP), which serves as a road map. A CRT case manager remains a consistent and trusted presence – providing information, encouragement and accountability – and reassessing at least once each quarter.

CRT has developed a sophisticated case management and data collection software system which allows online collaboration among members of the CRT team, and provides participants with objective evidence of their incremental successes. There has been considerable interest in the Steps software at national Community Action conventions and from Connecticut state agencies.

But the data is only a tool. At its core, Steps to Success is about people – the individuals and families who are stepping into a vibrant and more successful life, and the case managers who are agents of change.

Components of Steps to Success

- Intensive case management
- Thorough assessment
- Individual service plan
- Team approach
- Concentration of resources
- Ongoing reporting
- Internal reviews
- Staff training

50 years of CHANGING LIVES

Piloting Head Start



1965

CRT is a Head Start pilot site enrolling 3-5 year olds for early education, nutritious meals and health screenings. The innovative program also incorporates parent education, home visits and community governance.

Connecting to Employers



1965

The CRT Manpower Task Force oversees both classroom and workplace training, maintains connections to employers, matches open jobs with appropriate candidates, and provides follow-up job retention support.

All That Jazz



1967

CRT starts the Hartford Jazz Festival at Prince Tech, and holds six concerts at locations throughout the city. 46 years later, it's one of the country's longest-running free music events. Youth instruction in jazz instruments starts at the Garden Area Center.

Building the Workforce



It's been a busy year for James Allen. This self-described former "gangster" has earned his GED, his CPR/First Aid certificate, two certificates from the Home Builders Institute and – best of all – he's now a proud card-carrying apprentice in the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Journeymen.

What changed this former felon into a hard-working employee who's up by 5 every morning? A complete shift in attitude – and the discovery of a program that could support that change.

"When you go to jail, they make you feel like an animal," James recalled. "Enough was enough. When you're tired of it, you're gonna change. But without an education, you're nobody. You end up working a dead end job and you ain't going to go too far."

His probation officer referred James to **CRT'S CAPITAL CITY YOUTHBUILD**, which combines classroom education with vocational training, adding case management, counseling and other supports to help at-risk youth and young adults succeed. An entire team helps participants overcome barriers – an approach that's given CRT one of the highest retention rates of any YouthBuild program in the country.

Youth can pursue construction or health care careers while completing high school or earning a GED.

"Construction feels good, like when I built a school," James said. "It feels good to know you're building a place for kids to learn. I can drive by and tell my own kids one day that I built that."

Earning nearly \$20 an hour as a union apprentice, James now recites a mantra he learned at YouthBuild: "Legal money is the best money."

But the time with CRT was not without its challenges. "Working on my attitude was big," James said. "I learned how to be a team player. I had to work with a group of 20 kids. I just had to, because we always did things as a team. You get used to something if you keep doing it."

That shift in attitude has been crucial on construction sites, where he occasionally experiences harassment. With support of union brothers, James was determined not to quit – and not to resort to violence to settle the issue. "This program is teaching me to control my temper and giving me new ways to handle it."

After an abusive childhood with no father in the home, James sees the YouthBuild staff modeling respect for each individual.

Whatever challenges or frustrations he faced, James always knew where to turn: YouthBuild Construction Trainer Frank Mangiagli. "He was the missing father that I didn't have. He makes you feel like you're something." And that's a feeling James said he wants to spread.

He wants to "start a program to help other people like myself," James said. "I'd show kids there's more to life than the streets. Because I lived it and I can relate."

It's tough to change your life's direction, but with the right support it's possible. "You can break away from the chains you're used to and become somebody. Because I have and that feels really good."



Youth Employment at the Forefront

Since 1965, CRT has put youth employment at the forefront of its efforts for community development. Partnering with the Hartford Board of Education and the YMCA, CRT started the Neighborhood Youth Corps, which served more than 500 youth in its first year. Youth at risk of dropping out were identified by high school guidance departments; unemployed out-of-school youth were recruited at basketball courts, referred by pastors and social workers, or identified by local law enforcement. Funding from the US Department of Labor allowed corps participants to earn minimal salaries while they completed their schooling and applied for apprenticeships or other training.

Today, this tradition lives on in three youth employment programs: CRT is one of the oldest and largest providers of the **Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program**, providing meaningful employment, pre-professional training and a focus on higher education. CRT has been involved since 1978, as part of the Youth Employment Demonstration Project. Over the past three years, more than 450 youth have come through the CRT program, taking positions in over 70 different work sites. Youth working

in retail, food service, health care and communications have been offered paid positions at the close of the summer season.

Middlesex Youth Career Development Services began in 2007 to help Middletown, Portland and Cromwell youth to remain in school through graduation. A partnership with the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce, this is the only employment-focused program for at-risk youth in the Middlesex region. In 2012, every participant graduated from high school and enrolled in college or other post-secondary education.

Capital City YouthBuild was launched in 2009, to provide both academic and vocational training to youth who are neither in school nor in the workforce. CRT accepts court-involved young adults as well as those with either substance use or mental health issues – and still maintains unusually strong retention and success outcomes. CRT enrolls 20 youth who are interested in the construction field and 10 who concentrate on health care jobs. The current class will also have a significant service component, as the program is now a partner with Americorps VISTA.

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Youth Programs



1970

Thousands of teens earn their first paychecks with the Neighborhood Youth Corps, Summer Youth Employment and other CRT youth programs. Most provide 25 hours a week of work, instruction and community service.

Celebrate Culture



1972

CRT opens The Craftery, a community gallery showcasing nationally known minority artists and musical performers. It hosts the Youth Art Renaissance and free visual arts workshops for children, teens and adults.

Dangers of Lead



1972

CRT begins a door-to-door campaign to address the epidemic of lead poisoning. At least 30% of the children screened (including the girl pictured) showed elevated lead levels, often requiring extensive medical treatment.

Seniors Give Back

Retirement is an opportunity to get involved and build community connections. CRT's Senior Services Division provides many ways for older adults to engage with the wider community.

Loving to Learn

Youngsters benefit from the energy and wisdom of retired volunteers. The **CATCH** (Coordinated Approach to Child Health) after school program trains adults over



the age of 55 to bring an exciting eight-week nutrition and exercise curriculum into area elementary schools. It is supported by Oasis Institute to encourage both seniors and children to develop healthy habits and a more active lifestyle. For three years, CATCH has been offered within CRT's Retired Senior and Volunteer Program. Volunteer David Johnson (above) took to it immediately. "Finding this opportunity to play and connect with kids was a real gift."

CATCH joins **RSVP READS**, a program that pairs a senior volunteer with an elementary school child who's having trouble learning to read. The pair meet weekly for the entire school year, forming a relationship as they take turns reading aloud. Some of the original volunteers have found it so rewarding that they're still in the program, long after their first students have graduated from college.

Volunteer Cheryl St. Cyr-Bellis jumped in with both feet: She started with both the CATCH and RSVP Reads groups in the fall. Incredibly dynamic, she seems like a natural teacher, although she insists that she has never been in a classroom

before. "This is the best part of my week," she says. "These afternoons with the kids, they're giving a lot more to me than I'm giving to them."

Handcrafts for Others

Adora Litwanas, now 79, is a five-year resident of The Retreat, CRT's affordable assisted living community near Hartford Hospital. She's also one of the founders of **THE SNUGGLES PROJECT**. It began when Adora and other members of The Retreat's sewing club – which makes and raffles a lovely quilt each year – decided to put their hobby to use giving comfort to abandoned animals.

The group got busy making cozy, colorful blankets and pet beds. In October, they delivered more than 150 hand-sewn blankets and beds to the Connecticut Humane Society in Newington.

While there, the seniors toured the shelter and met some of the animals who were waiting for new homes. Giving back to animals in need resonated with these seniors, as many remember the days when they had pets of their own. As fabric donations come in, the sewing club has returned to their project, and they're busy making another batch of items for their four-footed friends.



Community Connections

Why do seniors volunteer? They cite the chance to establish a new social network, acquire new skills and remain connected with the community. And CRT offers many ways to make those connections.

A Meal and A Smile

In 1973, CRT opened the first **Elderly Nutrition** programs in the state, offering nutritious lunches at senior centers and bringing meals to homebound elders. Authorized under the Older Americans Act, the goal was to provide seniors a low-cost and nutritionally sound meal, while encouraging them to socialize and remain connected with the community.

Today this program improves the lives of seniors in two significant ways: Hundreds of seniors enjoy improved health because of the balanced meals that are served. And other individuals (most of them retired) enjoy the volunteer opportunity to make connections and give back to their community.



CRT's Elderly Nutrition Program could not function without the **490 volunteers** who deliver meals or serve at the Senior Cafés throughout the region, providing a friendly face and a smile along with the nutritious food. One of the longest-serving is Shirley Howe, who has delivered meals for 30 years.

"When I retired from Visiting Nurses, I wanted to continue to have the same kind of connection with people," she says. "I just love doing this! And I know that many people would not be able to stay in their homes without the food they get, and the visit each day from a volunteer."

The chance to be of service to others – that's at the heart of CRT's **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program**, which has **237 seniors** placed throughout the region. The largest program is RSVP reads, with 40 tutors working in elementary schools (see story at left). In addition, RSVP volunteers are the Bradley Ambassadors at the airport information booth, investigate complaints and potential fraud cases at the Connecticut Attorney General's office, and provide support in several medical facilities.

50 years of CHANGING LIVES

Keeping Seniors Healthy



1973

As part of "a campaign against hunger, solitude and neglect," CRT establishes the first Elderly Nutrition Program in Connecticut, serving low-cost meals at eight centers in Hartford. Home delivery was added for frail, homebound seniors.

Winter Comfort



1976

Five years before the federal program is established, CRT creates its own Energy Assistance Program to offer furnace repair, home winterization, and emergency energy loans to households throughout the region.

Essential Shelter



1987

After a homeless man is found frozen to death in a Hartford park, the city establishes the 88-bed Stewart B. McKinney Emergency Shelter to be operated by CRT. McKinney is the only shelter offering day respite for men who are medically fragile.

Home Sweet Home



“When you like your home, that’s the sweetest thing,” says a proud Carmen Scarlata, standing on the porch of her newly purchased East Hartford property. As a graduate of CRT’s financial education and matched savings program, Carmen at age 45 is living the sweet life and then some.

Her dream of home ownership surpassed even her own expectations. A one-acre property with four separate buildings – all requiring lots of attention – would overwhelm most first-time home buyers. Not so for Carmen – a skilled carpenter and union member.

“It’s always been my dream to have my own place,” Carmen laughed. “But so much? When this came up, it was like ‘whoa.’”

Thanks to the **INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT (IDA)** matched savings program, Carmen was ready when this property came on the market. She earned \$2 for every dollar she saved toward her home, while attending financial literacy training and monthly workshops. Across the nation, IDA helped close to 1,200 people purchase their first home in 2012 alone.

After drafting and revising her purchase, renovation and long term budgets, Carmen was confident that rents from the three-family home on the property would bring in enough to pay the mortgage, while she lives in a one-family house. Her wages as a union carpenter will go toward renovations of the buildings, which she calls a “renovator’s dream.”

And that suits Carmen just fine. A former school bus driver, she went through the Jobs Funnel program to become a carpenter. “I always like to do what the guys do,” Carmen said. “I like being physical and taking on the strenuous jobs

so this house is perfect for me. I have all the skills to do it myself. If you like it, you can do anything you want to.”

While she can do her own remodeling, Carmen faced other challenges. She had to reduce entertainment and shopping expenses, and start paying bills on time to avoid late fees.

“You have to pay off bills, plus you’ve got to save. That was the hardest part. But I was determined to make it happen. You learn from the classes they have but it’s on you after that. They let you know what to do, but then it all comes down to you. You have to change yourself.”

In October, Carmen moved into her home, with two dogs and a son who’s following in his mother’s footsteps – he’s an apprentice in the carpenter’s union. Her immediate goal is to renovate this property, and maybe one day buy another house.

Carmen loves seeing the results of her construction skills at major projects around Hartford. Now, those same skills will be used at her own personal landmark.

“I always wanted to live comfortable. Not rich but comfortable,” she said. “In my old apartment, I never wanted to be home. I always wanted to leave it. But now, I love coming home. I love being here.”



Dollars and Sense

It was 1967 when CRT opened its first Consumer Education and Protection Program, creating a department that offered workshops, newsletters and one-on-one counseling to help people manage their money more successfully. The emphasis was on budgeting, reducing debt and “paying yourself first” by saving for the future.

That’s still good advice. Today, CRT case managers focus on the financial know-how of participants in every program. And it’s the basis of all of CRT’s Financial Literacy programming, from a one-afternoon Money Matters workshop to the 14-week Financial Literacy Institute.

The **Individual Development Account** is a multi-year matched savings program in which participants like Carmen Scarlata (left) earn \$2 for every dollar saved toward a major asset such as a home, education or small business start-up. Equally important, the program requires 12 hours of financial education at the outset, and participation in monthly workshops. CRT staff help participants pay down their debts, repair their credit and prepare for the asset they’re planning to purchase. Preparation is key. If they’re saving to launch a business, participants

prepare a multi-phase plan with the Small Business Administration. If they’re working toward a home, they complete a 36-page Home Purchase Plan, requiring in-depth understanding of the entire process. All IDA participants must work up budget projections to show sustainability beyond the end of the program – building in plans to handle the “unexpected” bumps like major home or car repairs.

CRT offers a 14-week **Financial Literacy Institute** each year, in which both industry experts and CRT staff cover budgeting, savings habits, credit repair, mortgages, retirement and more. Participants also learn from one-another, forming a strong peer group in this “financial boot camp.” The institute has graduated 50 participants, and 18 more are currently enrolled.

In addition, there are shorter classes throughout the year, including an eight-hour First Time Homebuyer Course, and one-day classes on landlord/tenant relations, credit repair, household budgets and more.

Helping households make the most of their money and planning for financial setbacks is critical in helping people reach their potential.

50 years of CHANGING LIVES

Preserving the Home



1998

Responding to community need, CRT opens the Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Program and stops 413 evictions in the first year. At the height of the mortgage crisis, EFPP was fielding 10,000 calls annually, serving residents of 26 towns.

Helping in Middlesex



1998

Community Action for Greater Middlesex County joins forces with CRT to ensure efficient and effective delivery of child care, nutrition, employment, energy assistance and housing services in a 19-town region.

Saving for the Future



2002

CRT encourages good money management through the Individual Development Account (IDA) that provides monthly workshops and matches each dollar saved toward a home, car, small business or higher education.

Supporting Veterans

Thaddeus Taylor has a warm smile, a genial demeanor and a fierce determination to help others. Growing up, he saw the ravages of drug and alcohol abuse on people close to him. "I knew I wanted to help people, I want people to benefit from what I can offer them," he says.

The path to reach that goal hasn't been an easy one. It's taken him through eight years of military service, college and a counseling career he loved. But it's also detoured through alcohol abuse, criminal accusations and more than a decade in prison.

In 2012, the path led Thaddeus from his truck – where he was sleeping each night – to the CRT tent at the Veterans Stand Down in Rocky Hill. The event provides on-site medical and dental care, and information on benefits and services for vets.

Connecting with CRT Veterans Services was a turning point, Thaddeus says. He was excited to learn about CRT's continuum of services – from residential to community-based support. He applied for and moved into **VETERANS CROSSING** in East Hartford, CRT's transitional residence for homeless vets. Thaddeus and his case manager developed an action plan for long-term success – starting with committing to sobriety and restarting his work life.

And for the second time in his 45 years, Thaddeus' path is turning toward helping others. He's working at CRT's McKinney Shelter, assisting men who are facing the same challenges that he was encountering less than two years ago.

Peaks and Valleys

This was not the life that he had envisioned. Without funds for college, he enlisted in the Army right after high school and rose from Private to Sergeant. Upon discharge he joined the CT National Guard and enrolled in college.

But the military stipends barely covered expenses. So just one semester from finishing his degree he took a well-paid job as

a corrections officer. He also became a licensed firearms dealer, but failed to keep appropriate paperwork. He was arrested and spent 11 years in prison for criminal conspiracy.

Released on probation, he was back on track: Going to school and working his way up from driver to counselor in the human service field. Again it was paperwork that tripped him up: He was fired for not disclosing his criminal record.

With no job prospects, he was soon sleeping in his truck and losing hope for his future.

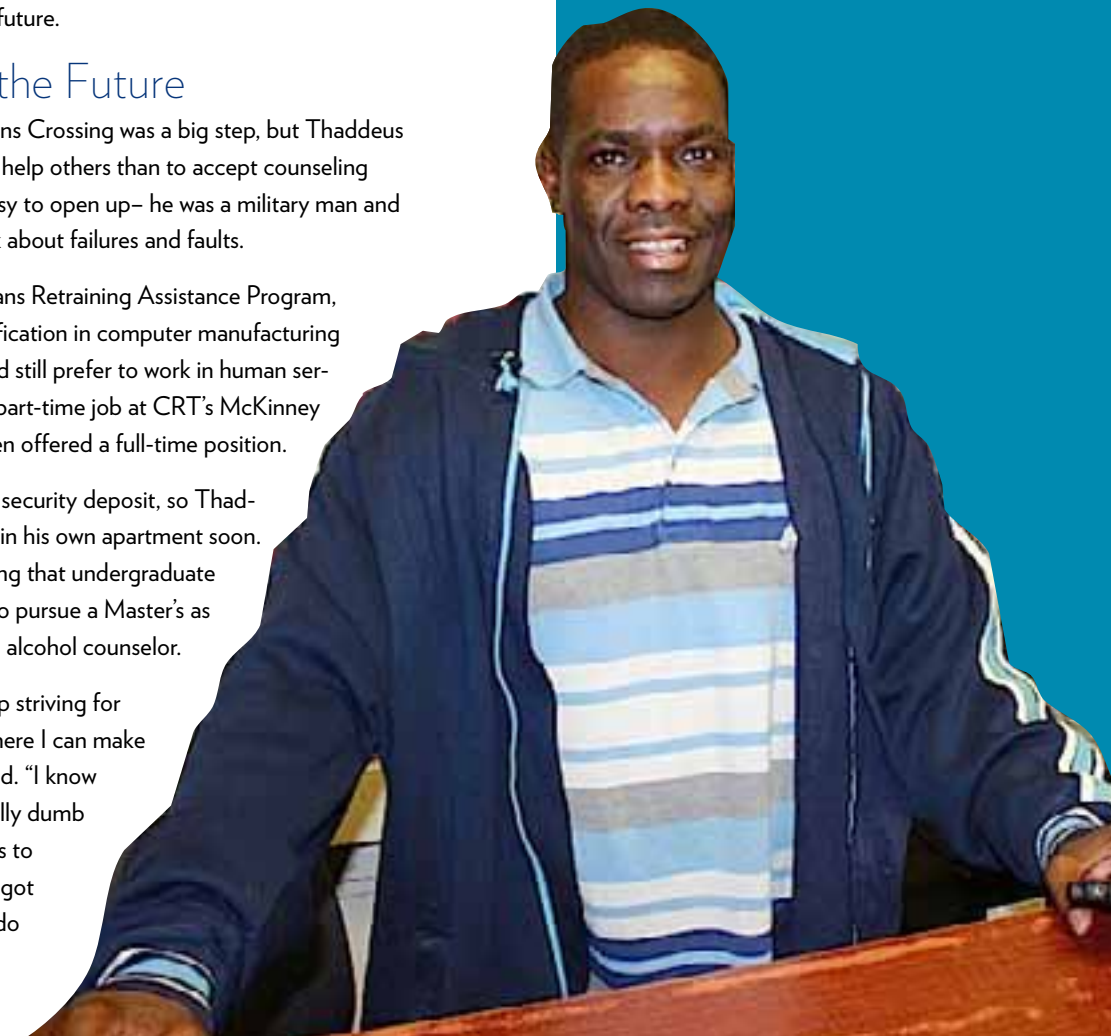
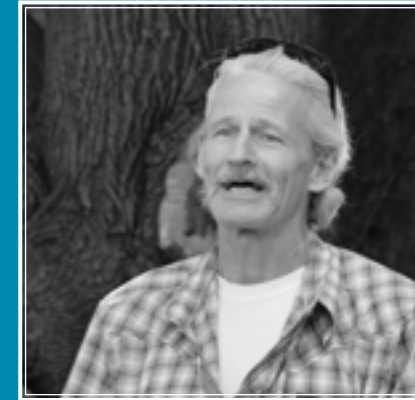
Seeds for the Future

Moving into Veterans Crossing was a big step, but Thaddeus was more willing to help others than to accept counseling himself. It wasn't easy to open up– he was a military man and embarrassed to talk about failures and faults.

Through the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program, he completed certification in computer manufacturing technology. But he'd still prefer to work in human services. He landed a part-time job at CRT's McKinney Shelter and has been offered a full-time position.

CRT helped with a security deposit, so Thaddeus expects to be in his own apartment soon. He's close to finishing that undergraduate degree, and plans to pursue a Master's as a licensed drug and alcohol counselor.

"I'll continue to keep striving for a better life, one where I can make a difference," he said. "I know I've made some really dumb mistakes, but thanks to CRT, I feel like I've got another chance to do it right."



A Continuum of Services

More than five years ago, CRT noticed an alarming trend: Vets were coming into CRT's homeless shelters in disproportionate numbers. This aligned with national statistics. Even after four years of concentrated effort, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that 13 percent of today's homeless adults have served in the military – although veterans represent just seven percent of the U.S. adult population.

CRT's research revealed that veterans in Central Connecticut needed more housing, employment and other support than was available at that time. As these service gaps emerged, CRT began focusing on working with partners to build up critical service interventions.

The first step was to open Veterans Crossing, a 12-room transitional rooming house in East Hartford, designed to break the cycle of homelessness/substance use/incarceration for veterans. Through **intensive case management**, residents are connected with VA health services, obtain vocational training or job readiness skills, seek employment at a sustainable wage and transition to apartments. Since it opened in 2010, 56 vets have come through the doors, with the majority finding permanent housing – either on their own or by reuniting with their families.

But CRT also wanted to serve veterans who are still in the community, in spite of precarious housing. Seven CRT staff now meet with veterans and their families at locations throughout Connecticut, as part of **Support Services for Veteran Families** and the **Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program**.

There are three key interventions offered: Prevent evictions by negotiating with landlords and covering a small amount of back rent; rapidly re-house families by securing affordable units and covering the first month's rent; and increase earned income with occupational training, job placement, transportation, workplace clothing and other targeted support. Since these programs began in fall 2011, CRT has helped more than 300 veterans move toward long-term stability.

Next on the horizon is **Veterans Landing**, which will be one of the country's first affordable assisted living residences for veterans and their spouses. (See story page 18). In this way, CRT continues to focus on specialized services that support those who have given so much to their country.

50 years of CHANGING LIVES

Clinical Support



2004

When another provider closes, CRT establishes a licensed clinic to preserve behavioral and mental health services for un- and under-insured patients. CRT now sees thousands of clients at clinics conveniently co-located with other relevant services.

New Option for Seniors



2005

CRT opens The Retreat, an affordable assisted living residence in downtown Hartford. This state demonstration pilot has saved taxpayers more than \$20 million by keeping low-income seniors out of more costly nursing homes.

For Those Who Served



2007

Seeing rising numbers of homeless veterans, CRT develops a service continuum. Veterans Crossing, a transitional residence in East Hartford opens 2010, followed by family outreach, housing stabilization and employment services in three counties.

2012 Financials

Operating Support and Revenue

Grants and Contracts	
Federal	\$37,983,388
Federal Stimulus	3,566,598
State	12,283,141
Private Weatherization Program	3,452,596
Contributions	
In-Kind	1,950,309
Elderly Nutrition Program Contributions	412,480
Fundraising	187,997
Supportive Housing Contributions	209,813
Other Revenue	
Education: Parent Fees and Subsidies	2,122,549
Elderly Nutrition Program Fees	467,839
Catering	1,199,505
Child and Adult Care Food Program Subsidies	575,306
Patient Fees	1,013,888
Rent Income Proceeds	423,040
CHEFA Debt Service	190,432
Other Income	777,449
Total Operating Support and Revenue	\$66,816,330
Operating Expenses	
Salaries and Benefits	\$29,378,334
Client Assistance	17,501,028
Materials and Supplies	6,798,320
Professional Fees and Contractual Services	4,903,487
Occupancy	2,923,120
Delegate Agencies	2,768,766
Other Expenses	469,695
Depreciation and Amortization	1,217,642
Travel and Transportation	724,480
Interest Expense	128,529
Total Operating Expenses	\$66,813,401
Change in Net Assets	2,929

Expenses by Function



Energy Related Services	24,445,808	36.6%
Children's Services, including Head Start and Child Care	22,170,239	33.2%
Supportive Services	5,568,372	8.3%
Housing and Shelter Services	4,882,874	7.3%
Elderly Nutrition Services	3,773,462	5.7%
Other Community Services	3,607,792	5.4%
Alternative Incarceration Services	1,542,341	2.3%
Job Training and Placement	822,513	1.2%

Source: CRT and affiliates combined financial statements as of December 31, 2012.

Funders and Donors

CRT gratefully acknowledges the following individuals, organizations and public agencies, for investing in our communities and families. By funding CRT programs, each of those mentioned here supports the region's efforts to eliminate poverty.

Federal Funding Sources

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
 Corporation for National and Community Service
 U.S. Department of Agriculture
 U.S. Department of Education
 U.S. Department of Energy
 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
 U.S. Department of Homeland Security
 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
 U.S. Department of Justice
 U.S. Department of Labor
 U.S. Department of the Treasury – Internal Revenue Service
 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
 U.S. Probations

State Funding Sources

CT Department of Children and Families
 CT Department of Correction
 CT Department of Economic and Community Development
 CT Department of Education
 CT Department of Environmental and Energy Protection
 CT Department of Housing
 CT Department of Labor
 CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
 CT Department of Public Health
 CT Department of Social Services
 CT Department of Transportation
 CT Health and Educational Facilities Authority
 CT Housing and Finance Authority
 CT Judicial Branch/Court Support Services
 CT Office of Healthcare Advocate

Municipal/Regional Funding

Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut
 Capital Workforce Partners, Inc.
 End Hunger Connecticut!
 Hartford Department of Health and Human Services
 Hartford Department of Youth, Families and Recreation
 Hartford Public Schools
 Middlesex United Way
 North Central Area Agency on Aging
 Northeast Utilities
 Operation Fuel, Inc.
 Senior Resources Agency on Aging
 State Education Resource Center
 United Way of Central & Northeastern CT
 United Way of Coastal Fairfield County, Inc.
 United Way of Pioneer Valley, Inc.
 United Way of Rhode Island
 Workforce Alliance
 Municipalities of:
 Avon
 Bloomfield
 Bolton
 Canton
 Clinton
 Cromwell
 Deep River
 Durham
 East Haddam
 East Hampton
 East Hartford
 Enfield
 Haddam
 Hartford
 Hebron
 Killingworth
 Manchester
 Middlefield
 Middletown
 Newington
 North Branford
 Portland

West Hartford
 Westbrook
 Wethersfield
 Windsor
 Windsor Locks

Foundations, Businesses and Organizations

ADP
 ADT Commercial Security
 Advanced Behavioral Health
 African American Affairs Commission
 Agawam Junior Women's Club
 All Saints Episcopal Church
 All Waste
 American Express
 Anderson Properties LLC
 AquaStone Graphic
 Arcadis/O & G
 Archdiocese of Hartford
 Annual Appeal Account
 Army and Navy Club of Manchester
 Atlanta Psychological Associates, Inc.
 B & W Paving and Landscaping
 Bank of America
 Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation
 Blue Fox Run
 Bob's Discount Furniture
 Boys and Girls Club of Hartford
 Bracelet Girl
 Bramen Chemical Enterprises
 Bristol Community Organization
 Brothers Oil Company
 Brown Rudnick LLP
 Capital Community College
 Capital Region Education Council
 Capital Workforce Partners
 Cart Concepts
 Catholic Charities
 Cathy's Bags
 CAUSA
 Charter Oak International Academy
 Charter Oak Temple
 Restoration Association

CIGNA
 Claro, Inc.
 CLSJ Foundation
 Comcast
 Community Health Centers
 Community Mediation, Inc.
 Connecticare

End Hunger CT
 Ensworth Charitable Trust
 Enterprise Builders
 Essex Newbury North Construction
 Evans, Pires and Leonard
 Family Life Education



Erika Brown of the Connecticut Credit Union Charitable Foundation presents a check to benefit CRT's Meals on Wheels Program. Funds helped purchase a heated/refrigerated vehicle that delivers up to 14 meals per week to homebound seniors.

Connecticut Association for Community Action
 Connecticut Association of Non Profits
 Connecticut Community Care, Inc.
 Connecticut Council for Family Service Agencies
 Connecticut Credit Union Charitable Foundation
 Connecticut Light and Power
 Constitution Advisory Group
 Cornerstone Restaurants in Honor of Michael Jordan's 50th Birthday
 Cosgrove Oil Company
 CT Association of Latinos in Higher Education
 CT Conference of Churches
 CT Health Foundation
 CT Workforce Development
 Delivery Concepts East
 Discovery Center
 Eagle Rivet Roof Service
 Eastern CT State University
 Foundation
 Elegant Creations
 Federation Homes
 First Congregational Church
 First Niagara
 Freeman Companies
 Geissler's Supermarkets
 Gems and Things
 Gilberto, Inc.
 Goicochea Real Estate
 Goodwin College
 Grant Thornton
 Greater Hartford Jewish Federation
 Grounds Guys of Greater Hartford
 Halloran & Halloran
 Harry E. Goldfarb Family Foundation
 Hartford County Bar Foundation, Inc.
 Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
 Hartford Hospital
 Hartford Healthcare
 Hartford Investment Management Group
 Hartford Municipal Federal Credit Union

50 years of CHANGING LIVES

Housing for Grandfamilies



2007

CRT opens Generations, a housing community for seniors and grandparents raising grandchildren. Affordable Housing Finance Magazine named it the Best Affordable Housing Development for Families in 2008.

Building Skills



2010

Capital City YouthBuild exceeds national benchmarks, boosting academic and vocational skills of out-of-school youth. Students earn stipends as they prepare for jobs or apprenticeships. Case managers help students deal with issues such as child care, housing and transportation.

Weatherization



2012

Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (the federal stimulus), CRT weatherizes 3,882 homes and apartments from early 2010 through late 2012, lowering heat and cooling bills an average of 35%. This created or preserved more than 420 jobs.

Hartford Roman Catholic Diocesan Corporation
Hoffman Auto Group
Howard K. Hill Funeral Services
HPC Food Service

IN MEMORY OF
Deborah Cawley
John Francis Ward
Madeline Dee
Rita Conlin
Seung B. Jung

Hubbard Fund
ICPA Education Foundation
Imagineers
ING Financial Partners
Interval House
Jewish Community Foundation
Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford
John H. and Ethel G. Noble Charitable Trust
Journey Home
K & D Novelities
Kittredge
Knox Parks Foundation
Larrabee Fund
Law Offices of Myers, Piscatelli and Link LLC
Lia Sophia
Liberty Bank
Macca Plumbing
Mansfield Paper Company
Maple Hill Farms
Mayo Crowe LLC
MBH Architecture
Mercy Housing and Shelter Corporation
Metzger, Lazarek and Plumb
Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce
Mike Riccio Sports
Mitchell Fuel
MP Guinan Associates
National Arts Program Foundation
National Coalition for Homeless Veterans
New Opportunities, Inc.
Northeast Utilities
Oasis Institute
O'Brien, Tanski and Young
Office for Black Catholic Ministries
Office of the City Treasurer-Hartford
Organic Body Products
Ovation Benefits Group

PartyLite Candles
People's United Bank
Performance Food Group
Philadelphia Insurance Preferred Services Inc.
Pronto Printer of Newington
Propertyman Services
Reid and Riege
Robinson and Cole
Rockville Bank
Ruane Attorneys
Saint Francis Hospital
Sandler & Mara
Sav-Mor Cooling and Heating, Inc
Scentsational
SCRUB Warehouse
Share Our Strength
Shipman & Goodwin
SINA
Sons of the American Legion Department of CT
Sons of the American Legion Post 72
South Congregational Church of East Hartford
Southeast Agency LLC
Sovereign Bank
Sparkle Jewelry
St. George Episcopal Church
St. John's Episcopal Church
Stafford Springs Senior Center
Stanley Black and Decker
Staples
Star Hardware | Express
Kitchens
Sullivan and Le Shane Public Relations
Superior Mechanical Builders
Sysco
Target Foundation
TD Bank
TEAM, Inc.
Telemundo
The American Legion Auxiliary
The Retreat
ThoroughClean
Thurston Foods
TJX Foundation
Travelers
Tri Com Systems
TYCO
UFCW Union Local 919
Unitarian Universalist Society

United Cleaning & Maintenance
United Food and Commercial Workers Union
United Illuminating
United Parcel Service (UPS)
United Technologies Corporation
Urban League of Greater Hartford
USI CT
Village for Families & Children
Waterford Group
Charitable Foundation
Waverly Markets
Wells Fargo Financial Advisors
West Indian Foundation
Whalley Computers
Whittlesey and Hadley
Williams Electric
WLB Group of Companies (Wells Fargo)
Yankee Gas Service Company
YMCA of Greater Hartford
YouthBuild USA
YWCA of the Hartford Region
Zephania Marie Jewelry

Individual Donors

Julie and Jerry Ackerman
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Walter Benjamin
Donna Berman, Ph.D.
Susan Beswick
Fernando Betancourt
Stephen Bigler
Tom Bivona
David Blake
Rosie Blake
Willa Bloch
Scott Bontempo
Erika Brown
Pia Brown



Fifty volunteers from Ovation Benefits Group completed a community service project at CRT's Locust Street Early Care and Education Program, creating lending libraries in each classroom, an outside flower garden and an alphabet-themed outdoor mural.

Robert L. Brown
Sonia Brown
Monique Burgos
Jack Butkus
Denise Callahan
Kaaron Calloway
Jennie Camerato
Jennie A. and Patrick J. Camerato
Ted Carroll
Fosie Cauley
Mark Espinosa
Maria Cheema
William and Debra Clark
William Clarke
Aida Claudio
Lorraine Cloutier
Adrian Cochrane
Philip Colley
David Colon
Melvin Colon
Lisa Conant
Jose Concepcion
Brian Connolly
Patricia Connolly
Steve Connolly
Tito and Milagros Contreras
Lorena Cooke
Shirley Cooper
Cory Cosgrove
Sharon and Brian Cowell
Gretchen Craffey
Ron Cretaro
Anna Croce
Elizabeth C. Cross-Desanto
Candace Cunningham
Keith Czarnecki
Beverly Dalpian
Dominique Davis
Marisha Davis
Teresa Davis
Carol Diana
Alessandra DiGiusto
Teresa Dinardi

Terry Donohue
Marvin Douglas
Denise Drummond
Phyllis Duane
Diane Dufault
Rosanna Durruthy
Richard El-Amin
Cecile Enrico
Fayne Erickson
Steve Erickson
Mark Espinosa
Martina Evans
Rhonda Evans
Mary Foster Everett
Ursuline Farrell
Miranda Fellmer
Barbara Fernandez
Mae Flexer
Candida Flores
Navonne Ford
Joseph and Diane Fortier
Nancy Fortin
Janet Fournier
Carmen Fowler
Randy Frank
Rohan Freeman
Rosemond Frett
Paul and Linda Frisman
Brian Funk
Patricia Gardner
Gay Gardner-Wilson
Michael Garner
Jim Gatling
Dennis Geary
David Gerard
Tara Gerber
John Giannantoni, Sr.
Dina Gifford
Glenn Gordon
Erica Gorman
Ellen Goudreau
Sam Gray

Maryland Grier
Lori Groth
Mary Phil Guinan
Diane Hagi
Mary Hallenback
Bart Halloran
Kaitlin Halloran
Kevin Hamilton
Joseph and Debra Hammer
Diane and William Hare
Shirley Harrison
Michael Herlands
Lucy Hernandez-Goicochea
Krista Heybruck Santiago
Yvonne Hickey
Brad Hoffman
Jeffrey Hoffman
Eileen Hollman
Todd and Amy Howard
Jeff Hubbard
Elsa Huertas
Jennifer Humes
Marilyn Ibsen
Faith Jackson
Mary Jane Jamrogowicz
Petra Jenkinson
Dave Johnson
Norman Jones III
Susan Joyce
William and Jeanette Karosi
Edith Karsky
Gary P. Karwowski
Gus Keach-Longo
Linda Kelly
Miranda Killmer
Christina Kishimoto
Max Kothari
Peter Kulas
Michael Kurs
Freya LaBatte
Peter Lange
William Langmaid
Lynn Lauderdale
Barbara and William Lavine
Jeff Lederman
Sara LeMaster
Lance Lombardo
Elen Long
Morgan Loomis
Estela Lopez
Eileen Lopez-Cusone
Heather Loranger
Jay Lorinsky
Frank Macca
Ann Mahoney

Dr. Conrad Mallett
Dan Mara
George Mason
Mark Masselli
Jill Mastrianni
Krista Mazzuca
Christopher McCluskey
Tracey McCluskey
Larry McHugh
Yvette Melendez
Mick Melvin
Elizabeth Mendez
Robert Michalman
Maria Michele
Arthur Miller
Bill Miller
John Mitchell
Michael Mitchell
Cathy Molitoris
Maureen Monoco
Emilie Montgomery
Saul Mora
Bernadette Morris
James Morton
Elizabeth Mosquera
Elizabeth Moss
Sue Murphy
Heather Musante Mitchell
The Honorable Denise Nappier
Alex Nardone
Maria Nazario
Lois Nesci
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Dr. Wilfredo Nieves
David Nitche
Dan Noonan
Elsa Nunez
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Helena O'Reilly
Neil and Kathi Orrill
Charlie Ortiz
David Osella
Melinda Osley
Rosemary Padin
Lucy Pappalardo
Nancy Pappas
Scott Parent
Lindsay Parke
Shebra Parker
Maryanne Pascone
Alice Patterson
James and Karen Pestana
Frances M. Petko

Tom Phillips
Cecil Phillips-Ritchey
Tracy Pinon
Pamela Piroli
Ken Plumb
Fredda Rago
Thomas and Pamela Ragonese
Elinor Reiss
Marcia Reiss Franklin
Vivian Richardson
Ernesto Rios
Thomas Ritter
Jose Rivera
Carol Roberts
Jeffrey Rochler
Galo Rodriguez
Hector Rodriguez
Lena Rodriguez
Agnieszka Romanowska
C. Samperi
Bob Sander
Jim Sandler
Raquel Santiago Martinez
Suzanne Sattler Rene
Ryan Savage
Laurie Scanlon
James Scaramozza
Daniel Schaefer
Mark Scheinberg
Ginny Scheller
Sydney Schulman
Ken Schultz
James Scott
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Lana S Sharp Crowder
Dan Shea
Tim Shea
Eugene Sheehan
Rob Oliver
Marco Signorello
Nancy Simonds
Angela Sipala
Balam Soto
Joseph Spates
Joe Stanford
Gary Starr
Ellen Ann Strain
Doris Sugarman
Patrick Thurston
Gail Tilley
Kristina Tilli
Tim Toner
Giovanna Torres
Laurie Trojnar
Nancy Tuttle

Nancy Tyler
Deb Ullman
Abigail Van Deusen
Mary Lou and Paul Varno
Elizabeth Vazquez
Jose Vega
Lisa Vivenzio
Lisa Voorvaart
Faith Voswinkel
Marisa Walls
David B. Walters
Joshua Ward
Fernando Webb
Max Wender
Jesse Wescott
Mary Wilcox
George Williams
Jasmine Williams
Ron Williams
Al Wilson
Alan and Joyce Wilson
Barry Wilson
Dana Wilson
Fal Wilson
Ymonne Wilson
Kevin Worcester
Joann Yanga
Stephanie and Cy Yavuzturk
Lawrence Zarbo

In Kind Donations

Anne Miller Real Estate
Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield
Beardsley Zoo
Beatrice Fox Auerbach Child Development Center
Bed Bath and Beyond
Black Eyed Sally's
Bradford Portraits
Budget Printers
Carmen Sierra
Marco Signorello
Nancy Simonds
Angela Sipala
Balam Soto
Joseph Spates
Joe Stanford
Gary Starr
Ellen Ann Strain
Doris Sugarman
Patrick Thurston
Gail Tilley
Kristina Tilli
Tim Toner
Giovanna Torres
Laurie Trojnar
Nancy Tuttle

CRT Nutrition Program
CRT Planning Department
CRT Supportive Housing
CT 1 Media (Hartford Courant)
CT Science Center
Diageo
Feed the Children
Feld Entertainment
Foodshare
Golub Foundation/Price Chopper
Gordon Bonetti Florist
Home Depot
La Boca Mexican Restaurant
Lake Quassy Amusement Park
Lamarr Advertising
Leadership Greater Hartford
Lyman Orchards
Mandel Jewish Community Center
Marinello School of Beauty
Mattel
New Britain Rock Cats
Newport Blues Inn
North Central CT Paralegal Association
Power Station
Real Artways
Safari Micro
Saint Ann's Church
Salute
Six Flags
Ski Sundown
Spicy Green Bean Restaurant
Stop & Shop
The Glazier Group
Toys for Tots
Trader Joe's
Travelers Championship
Treva Restaurant and Bar
We Care Computers
Whalley Computers
XL Center

50 years of **CHANGING LIVES**



Fundraising kicks off for Veterans Landing, CRT's affordable assisted living residence for veterans, which will be constructed on the VA Healthcare Newington campus. The agency's 50th Anniversary Gala raised \$50,000 for the community, thanks to 96 sponsors. Veterans' organizations, including the Army & Navy Club of Manchester and Sons of the American Legion, have contributed to the development. At the Veterans Parade, CRT launched a crowdfunding campaign to raise the profile of the project.



[GoFundMe.com/CRTvets](https://www.gofundme.com/CRTvets)



Memorable Night Resources for Families

CRT's 50th Anniversary Gala Raises \$50,000 for Veterans Landing

Preparing Our Communities Through Education and Direct Aid



CRT builds up key assets in the community, allowing individuals and families to reach their potential. The third class to graduate from CRT's 14-week Financial Literacy Institute, above, learned to navigate major areas of the financial world such as budgeting, credit, mortgages, and financial empowerment. Valedictorian Theo Brown, right, said this knowledge positions him to start toward his long-term goals, including a comfortable retirement.



At a glittering gala on May 15, Mark K. Shriver asks the crowd of 300 to continue the legacy of his father, Sargent Shriver, and the War on Poverty (top right). (A) Peter Roach, 1965 CRT board member, with John Motley. (B) CRT board members Norm Jones and Walter Benjamin with Hon. Gala Chair Mark Masselli of Community Health Center, and board member Jeffrey Hoffman; (front) CRT Board Chair Fernando Betancourt and CEO Lena Rodriguez with Hon. Chair Dr. Elsa Nunez, President of Eastern Connecticut State University. (C) Middletown Mayor Daniel Drew with Larry McCue of the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce. (D) Maselli recalls the early days of Community Action in Middletown. (E) Members of the Veterans Landing Advisory Council. (F) Dr. Paul Copes with his wife Barbara. (G) Shriver and Rodriguez with Linda Kelly, President of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. (H) Dr. Nunez.



Responding to a request from the community, CRT opened a new Early Care and Education program at Sigourney Mews, a housing development on Collins Street in Hartford. Mayor Pedro Segarra was on hand for opening day. The annual Community Resource Fair (lower right) introduces families to more than 45 community partners, from legal assistance and child support enforcement to children's health and immunizations.



Feed the Children continued its partnership with CRT, allowing us to respond to the needs of 400 shoreline families who were victims of Superstorm Sandy, at a distribution in Old Saybrook, and 800 families in Hartford. During this three-year partnership, CRT and Feed the Children have provided more than 140,000 pounds of fresh and shelf-stable groceries to families in Hartford and Middlesex counties.





For the Cause

Focusing Community Attention



A large crowd of CRT employees and supporters marched in the Hartford Veterans Parade to kick off a crowdfunding campaign that supports Veterans Landing, CRT's affordable assisted living for veterans and their spouses. With groundbreaking set for 2015, this will be built on the VA Newington campus.



Two warm-weather highlights are always the CRT golf tournaments. The fourth annual Tee Off With Women raised funds for domestic violence programs at CRT and Interval House. Child Advocate Garvin Ambrose, Rep. Mae Flexer, Attorney General George Jepsen and CRT's President/CEO Lena Rodriguez showed their support for this important cause. Attorney Nancy Tyler had the entire audience holding their breath as she recalled the harrowing ordeal she went through at the hands of her ex-husband.



The annual CRT Golf Classic benefits the Meals on Wheels elderly nutrition program, which brings hot healthy meals each day to homebound seniors. With 112 players and 33 sponsors, proceeds from the tournament retired the nutrition program's \$32,000 deficit. CRT was the state's first provider of senior meals, and last year served more than 410,000 meals last year.



Positive Messages

CRT Nurtures Resilient Children and Youth



To commemorate National Child Abuse Prevention Month, dozens of volunteers visited every CRT Early Care and Education classroom to read the age-appropriate book, "Your Body Belongs to You." Emilee Montgomery, CRT's Director of Early Care and Education, is greeted by preschool students, along with State Child Advocate Garvin Ambrose and CRT CEO Lena Rodriguez (top). At left, students parade through the neighborhood declaring "Hands are not for hitting!" State Rep. Diane Urban of Stonington, chair of the legislature's Committee on Children, is thanked by the students.

More than 120 teens took a look at relationships and sexual decisions at a health fair focused on postponing pregnancy. Popular entertainers joined with CRT and other partners to present an "edutainment" event that included information on HIV and other diseases, social pressures, bullying and the financial cost of having a baby. Healthy Teen-Healthy Hartford was underwritten by a grant from Hartford's Department of Health and Human Services.





BASIC NEEDS

- Resource Centers
- Food Assistance
- Eviction/Foreclosure Prevention Shelters



COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

- Alternatives in the Community
- Fresh Start
- Transitional Case Management



EDUCATION AND YOUTH

- Infant/Toddler Day Care
- Head Start and Preschool
- Day Care Nutrition
- Promoting Healthy Teens
- Summer Food



EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

- Capital City YouthBuild
- Fatherhood
- Middlesex Adult Job Training
- Middlesex Youth Development
- SNAP Employment & Training
- Summer Youth Employment



ENERGY AND WEATHERIZATION

- Energy Assistance
- Weatherization



HOUSING AND SHELTERS

- Affordable Housing
- CHAP
- Family Shelter
- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
- Men's Shelter
- Supportive Housing



MONEY MANAGEMENT

- Eviction & Foreclosure Prevention
- IDA Savings Program
- VITA Tax Filing
- Your Money



MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- Asian Family Services
- Behavioral Health Services
- Healthcare Assistants
- HIV Counseling Services
- Homeless Outreach
- Re-Entry Recovery Services



SENIOR SERVICES

- Gatekeeper
- Meals on Wheels
- Retreat Assisted Living
- Retired and Senior Volunteers
- Senior Affordable Housing
- Senior Cafés



VETERANS PROGRAMS

- Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families
- Veterans Transitional Housing
- Veterans Landing Assisted Living (Coming soon)

