



STRONGER TOGETHER

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



Community Renewal Team
Changing lives... Creating opportunity!



Community Renewal Team Programs & Services

Basic Needs
Resource Centers
Food Assistance



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



Mental Health and Wellness
Asian Family Services
Behavioral Health Services
HIV Counseling Services
Homeless Outreach
Re-Entry Recovery Services

Education and Youth
Infant/Toddler Day Care
Head Start and Preschool
Day Care Nutrition
Summer Food



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 Housing
Veterans Landing Assisted Living (coming soon)



Employment and Training

Capital City YouthBuild
Fatherhood
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
Housing Counseling
Men's Shelter
Supportive Housing
Security Deposit Voucher Program



Community Corrections
Fresh Start
Transitional Case Management



For more information go to crtct.org



Progress through Partnerships

2,460 families are taking Steps to Success through CRT's holistic case management 3-4 ▼



Preschoolers thrive in an inclusion classroom – those with hearing impairment and their typical friends 5-6 ◀

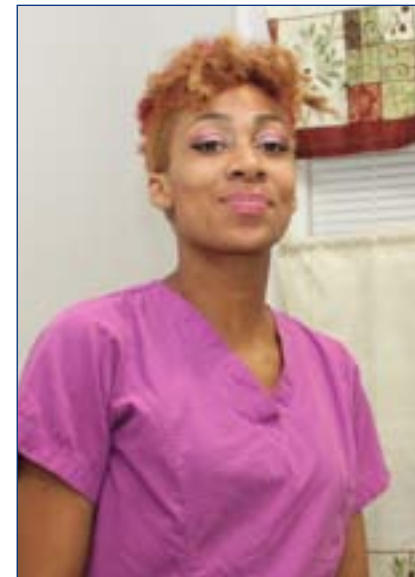
Connecticut was the first state to achieve the goal of ending chronic homelessness for veterans 9-10 ▼

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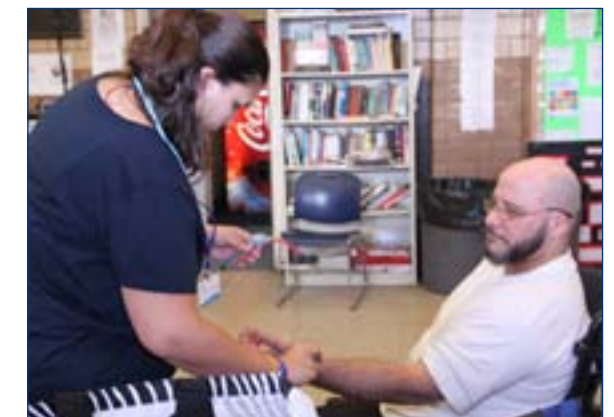
2015 Annual Report Contributors:
Yamira Cartagena, Maria Cheema, Joe Keach-Longo, Mick Melvin, Elizabeth Newberg, Nancy Pappas, Myriam Salazar, Nancy Shapiro, Jose Vega

The 132 youth who graduated from Capital City YouthBuild are earning an average wage of \$10.74 7-8 ◀



Project Horizon nurses have helped more than 8,000 McKinney Shelter guests in 27 years 13-14 ▼

CRT volunteers contributed more than 123,000 hours throughout Central Connecticut last year 11-12 ◀



We Are Truly “Stronger Together”



From my office I can hear construction on the floor below, as we renovate the Ritter Early Care and Education Center to welcome infants and toddlers. This winter, Community Renewal Team will be opening the first Early Head Start programs in Hartford and East Hartford, accommodating 100 children and their families.

Fifty years ago Community Action Agencies like CRT responded to the crisis in education by opening Head Start classrooms, taking a “two-generation approach” before that was a popular term. Head Start offered a preschool education, nutritious meals and health screenings for children, combined with social services and empowerment for their parents.

Early Head Start retains that full-family approach, combining services to pregnant moms with center-based care for children from six weeks to three years old, at no cost to parents. Our Community Needs Assessment and many other studies find a shortage of affordable child care, particularly for children under three. This is a barrier to parents’ employment or schooling, and deprives children of the stimulating environment that could help close Connecticut’s achievement gap.

That is the unique role of Community Action: We are a national network of community-based agencies that assess needs in our regions then convene partners and leverage resources to address those needs.

CRT filled a gap in the free Summer Food Program this year when we began the state’s first weekend meal deliveries, serving at 21 sites including Hartford’s public swimming pools and libraries. Although it required moving to a seven-day operation, the Nutrition Department rose to the challenge.

By Labor Day, CRT had served 109,252 meals and snacks at 73 locations, up from 89,308 at 38 sites the year before. The Connecticut Department of Education and End Hunger CT! recognized this effort by naming us a Superstar Program.

Among CRT’s dedicated employees there was no discussion of “if” we could meet this need, the question was “how.” I see this can-do attitude from hundreds of dedicated and talented staff. They are partners in the effort to empower participants and help our communities. We are grateful for their energy, skill and enthusiasm.

Yet so many needs require more than a single season to address, such as our work to bring affordable assisted living to our low- and moderate-income older veterans. Those who have served our country deserve a setting that is comfortable and dignified in their senior years. We are determined to address this need in partnership with the US Department of Veterans Affairs and supporters like Connecticut’s American Legion.

Reading through this year’s report, you will see some of the ways CRT collaborates to help people break down barriers, reduce inequality and create stable and more comfortable lives. I hope that you will join us in this effort. Only by working together can we make an impact on the future of our region.

Lena Rodriguez
President and CEO

Community Renewal Team has always been an organization committed to working with partners – both large and small – in order to create new opportunities for individuals, families and entire communities. The work that can be accomplished together is always far greater than the sum of what we can do alone.

This year’s Annual Report gives us the opportunity to reflect on some of those partnerships, and thank the many organizations that have joined their strength with ours for the good of the region.

I’m thinking of Crown Market, PriceRite and Toyo Tires, businesses that stepped in when the Meals on Wheels program was squeezed between funding cuts and rising costs. The program delivers two healthy meals every day to more than 700 seniors who can no longer shop and cook for themselves. Another 3,200 elders enjoy hot lunches served in their apartment complexes or at a nearby senior center. Many of our neighbors can remain in their homes only because of the nutritious meals from CRT.

And I’m also thinking of Habitat for Humanity and the East Hartford Rotary Club helping to create a more family-oriented environment at the East Hartford Shelter. Working with CRT’s Capital City YouthBuild and Early Care and Education programs, these organizations renovated and refurbished the common areas. Hundreds of guests will benefit from the new children’s play area, comfortable lounge and a new dining room where families can enjoy meals together.

These are just two small examples of the power of partnerships. When there is a true convergence of values – when entities work together with dedication and integrity – then great things can truly happen.

I have often expressed my admiration for both the staff and volunteers who pull together to ensure that CRT can identify needs and design programs that address them. Additionally, I want to thank the group with whom I work most closely – the Board of Trustees. These attentive and committed individuals keep the concerns of their neighbors at the center of their work, and serve as the agency’s ambassadors in the community.

This season we are saying good bye to a very valuable ambassador, Dr. Conrad Mallett, who retires from our board after 27 years. We stand in awe of his lifetime of service to higher education, civil rights and dismantling structural poverty. Dr. Mallett, you will truly be missed as you leave Hartford.

But for those of us who remain here ... I challenge us to deepen our partnerships, enlist new collaborators and renew our commitment to finding hope in troubled times. I am proud to be part of an organization that continues to find allies in the work of changing lives.

Fernando Betancourt
Chair of CRT Board of Trustees



Last year:
2,460 families
participated in Steps
to Success case
management
1,767 achieved at least
one major life goal



Two Paths to Success



Stella Torres knew her husband could be violent and she often feared for her safety. Yet she never sought help until the fury threatened the grandson she was raising. When the crisis came she turned to CRT's East Hartford Shelter, where she had brought holiday gifts every year.

"At first I cried all the time," she says. "I had never stayed in a shelter, I couldn't believe what was happening." But caring staff helped Torres draw on her own resilience to make a plan for the future.

They used CRT's comprehensive case management approach called Steps to Success. It starts with an in-depth assessment of strengths and challenges across 20 areas including income, employment, housing, education, rating each from 'In Crisis' to 'Thriving.'

Participants set goals and define the steps to reach them. For Torres, the top priorities were a stable home and a new job – preferably not in food service. The assessment and goals are incorporated into an Individual Service Plan (ISP) which becomes a road map for the future.

But routes often have detours. Torres and Elijah moved in with a relative whose drug addiction drove them out. After a second stay in East Hartford they went into transitional housing. Two years after leaving her husband, Torres was accepted into CRT Supportive Housing, which offers rental subsidies and wrap-around services to vulnerable families.

A home, a school, a job

With a stable address, she enrolled her grandson in CRT preschool, where she got involved in the Parent Committee and attended leadership training. A CRT Employment Specialist helped with a resume, job search and interview preparation. After many rejections, Torres landed a position that matches her grandson's school hours.

As Torres moved from the shelter to supportive housing, her case moved smoothly to another case manager who could see data and notes in a software system that CRT has developed. It allows online collaboration within the CRT team, and provides participants with objective evidence of their incremental progress. Case managers celebrate successes with their customers, because small victories can go unnoticed when there are so many issues to address.

Torres' next challenge is to secure permanent custody of Elijah; with that settled, she hopes to move into Generations, CRT's community for grandfamilies. For now, she takes walks with Elijah around the nearby Trinity College campus. "I tell him, 'Poppy, you're going here someday.' I have dreams for him."



From homeless dad to homeowner

Lashawn Dyson stood at a microphone at Connecticut's Legislative Office Building in February and opened his remarks this way: "I'm a single dad who went from homeless to homeowner thanks to a few different programs offered by the Community Renewal Team."

In Dyson's testimony to the Appropriations Committee, he gave credit to the CRT Fatherhood Program and a semester of parenting classes, which helped when he first got custody of his daughter. He spoke about being unable to afford an apartment as a part-time cook – until Fatherhood referred him to supportive housing. He praised a program called the Individual Development Account, which helped him buy a three-family home through matched savings and extensive money management education.

And he thanked the CRT staff members who believed in the future he saw for himself: A stable income, comfortable home and a successful school career for his daughter.

Dyson experienced what Community Action Agencies call bundled service delivery. In a 2014 study, the National Association For State Community Services Programs says bundling "affords the family an opportunity to meet the targets they have set by providing support and access to a comprehensive range of services." These services "address the multiple barriers a low income family may have to overcome to reach self-sufficiency."

Today, the family has reached that stability and "graduated" from regular check-ins with a case manager. The house he bought near Keney Park is a big part of that stability. With his grandmother on the first floor and his mother on the second, there is always family to help with nine-year-old Nevaeh. CRT Weatherization has started sealing up the drafts and helped him cut the family's water use. He applied for Energy Assistance to lower his heat bills.

"CRT calls their wrap-around case management the Steps to Success," he told the legislative committee earlier this year. "And in my case, that really describes what happened."



Lashawn Dyson brought his daughter when he testified about the impact of CRT's programs (top). He moved into his new home in January with his daughter and his fiancée Tikai Cummings (bottom).



Jeffrey Paulo (top left) made tremendous progress in the inclusion classroom that educates children with hearing impairment alongside their typical peers. His mother, Christina Nieves, has gone from being an active classroom volunteer to a paid position in early childhood. This is the third year for the specialized class, established as a partnership between CRT and the Hartford Board of Education.

Learning Together

The sounds coming from Room 211 at Douglas Early Care and Education Center are just what you'd expect from any preschool classroom: children's laughter, teachers' conversation and everyone singing.

But those "normal sounds" are exactly what makes this room so special. Room 211 is an **inclusion classroom**, a partnership between Community Renewal Team and Hartford Public Schools, where children with significant hearing impairment and their typical peers are learning together.

The daily routine is identical to any of CRT's 52 other preschool classrooms. Three- and four-year-olds make no distinction between friends who wear assistive hearing devices and those who don't.

"The idea is to give all of the children as rich and as normal a preschool experience as possible," explains Julie Morin, Director of Early Childhood Special Education for Hartford, who established this collaboration with CRT. "Our children with hearing impairment need typical role models, they need to see other children who are also learning to sit still for a story, share their toys, transition to the next activity."

Educating children together

Years ago, children with special needs were often educated in self-contained classrooms. But Morin explains that the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA) mandates that children be educated in the least restrictive environment possible. In many cases, this means an inclusion program, described by the Head Start Center for Inclusion as, "the full and active participation of young children with disabilities in programs with typically developing children."

Hartford has ten preschool inclusion classes, but this is the first for children with hearing impairment, and the only one sited outside of a public school. "We approached CRT to host this because we have an absolutely wonderful relationship. We thought CRT was the right partner," says Morin. "Three years later, it turns out that we were right!"

The class of 14 children has five full time staff: a lead teacher and two aides from CRT and a special education teacher and paraprofessional from the city. Additional special-ists are on-site several times a week, working one-on-one or with groups of children.

There are just a few classroom modifications: Teachers wear a microphone which broadcasts into the children's hearing aids and through a wall-mounted speaker. And acoustic panels absorb some of the background noise.



The concentration on language and communication helps all children. "When we're speaking, we're always telling the children 'Look at me, watch my lips.' It's good for any child, hearing impaired or typical," said special education teacher Meg Brundage.

In her third year as lead teacher, Rosa Nieves says she loves seeing the children make friends and help each other. "They're all learning together about taking turns, making choices, cleaning up. No one cares who has a disability, they're all just friends."

I Couldn't Believe My Ears

Christina Nieves is one of the program's greatest supporters. Her son Jeffrey has profound hearing loss as well as other health issues – he had more than 20 operations before his third birthday.

He had received home-based services throughout his life, Nieves said. "But even with all the work he had tantrums, he threw things, and he didn't speak. Not at all."

Last year, 184 CRT preschool students received special education services through partnerships with the local Boards of Education. These are usually provided at the child's own school.

At CRT Jeffrey was around other children for the first time. "It didn't take long and his attitude changed! He loved it! He wanted to do everything the other kids were doing," his mom said. "Every morning he would be tugging me to get us out the door."

The staff worked daily on language and speech skills. A few months later, as Jeffrey was playing in the living room, "I'm suddenly hearing him start to talk. I just couldn't believe my ears, I broke down and started to cry!"

Jeffrey continued in the Douglas inclusion class for two years, and has now moved into kindergarten. Seeing his progress, his mom is determined to help other youngsters by entering the early childhood field herself. She has moved from a classroom volunteer to a paid teacher's assistant, and will be starting college to study child development.

"Jeffrey's life and my life, they both completely changed thanks to CRT and this program," Nieves says.





Building Youth for Tomorrow



A young man with a troubled history sees YouthBuild as a way to change his life. He's a quick study, eager to tackle construction problems. But other skills are more difficult: getting to work on time, communicating clearly, working in a team. Still he persists, and his efforts are rewarded: He represents Hartford at a Washington DC conference; lands an internship with a welding company; and is accepted into the Carpenter's Union apprenticeship. A few months after graduation, he is sheet rocking on the 30th floor of a Hartford high rise – amazed at the change in his perspective in such a short time.

A young woman believes YouthBuild will help her reconnect to her dream: a career in health care. Her grandmother always said she had 'healing hands.' But she left college to raise two children alone, taking jobs that barely cover rent and childcare –much less her school loans. Now she feels her confidence returning as she starts classes at Capital Community College, earns her Nursing Assistant certificate and finds a full time job in a nursing home. Within the year she hopes to use her education stipend to start classes toward the next step on her career ladder.

Finding a way

Anthony Mendoza and Kyreema Hairston took very different paths to join the 2015 class of CRT's Capital City YouthBuild. One had never held a job, the other has seven paid positions on her resume. One arrived with no career goals, the other chose a vocational path while still in middle school. Yet both overcame significant challenges and got their lives back on track, thanks to the opportunities provided by YouthBuild and its partners.

YouthBuild is a national youth and community development model that addresses several core issues facing low-income communities: housing, education, employment, crime prevention and leadership. Youth obtain the academic and employment skills necessary to achieve economic self-sufficiency; holistic case management and wrap-around services help the entire family; and youth develop leadership skills and a commitment to give back to their own communities.

Earn while you learn

Since 2009, CRT has offered this unique blend of schooling, career preparation, life skills and social services to Hartford youth ages 17-24, with funding from the US Department of Labor. Participants earn stipends while they pursue careers in construction, food service or health care and complete high school, earn a GED or begin their post-secondary education. Case managers connect participants with a wide range of services offered by CRT and other community organizations, such as eviction prevention, substance abuse counselling, child care, energy assistance and housing subsidies.

Participants also work to improve their hometowns. A partnership with Americorps provides a community service coordinator and an education stipend of \$1,415 for those who complete at least 450 hours of community service. Hartford youth have constructed or repaired homes, built gardens for the elderly, prepared food

at several shelters and cleaned up storm damage in the Riverfront Parks – for which they won a High Impact Service Award.

The New England Regional Council of Carpenters has been a key partner from the beginning, providing the curriculum for construction training and access for qualified graduates like Anthony to enter the Apprenticeship Training Program. Other employers sit on the YouthBuild Oversight Committee, offer internships or share job leads with the staff – ensuring that 80% of students find work within six months of their graduation.

That ceremony – complete with caps, gowns and a family banquet – is often the very first graduation experience for YouthBuild participants. Each class develops its own pledge, which students recite for the audience. This year's class not only wrote a pledge, but performed it as a multi-media rap number at graduation:

We proudly accept the challenges to transform our lives and to develop leadership skills to rebuild our community. Once we've changed ourselves we can change the world, one step at a time. We will strive for excellence so that we can be top achievers in our community. We know we will go through challenges but we will make a difference. We are on this journey together.

Graduates in the CNA program include Kyreema Hairston (from top left). She jumped into all activities, including a community clean-up day. The program bought her first sets of scrubs and helped her find childcare that opened by 6 am, since her shift starts at 7. Anthony Mendoza thanks his internship supervisor (top right) and celebrates graduation with his family. He helped prepare meals at a shelter as part of his community service.





For Those Who Served

Following the new protocol established by the Reaching Home Veterans Workgroup, homeless veterans are quickly identified at shelters like Stewart B. McKinney (top center) or at events like the weekly lunches held at South Park Inn (top left). Angel Rodriguez (opposite page) recently moved into his own apartment after 10 years without a permanent address.



In August, Gov. Dannel Malloy announced that Connecticut had been designated by the federal government as the first state to end chronic homelessness among veterans. In this statement, he was talking about people like Angel Rodriguez. For more than ten years this Navy veteran had no permanent address. He moved in with friends and family, slept in his car, stayed at several shelters and then secured a single room in a transitional residence.

Rodriguez continued working most of that time. He's certified to remove hazardous materials like asbestos and oil spills. As a younger man he did roofing and painting, then moved into landscaping and plowing. "Every job I've had, it's always been physical," said Rodriguez.

But that ended four years ago when he was hit by a car. Though he regained much of his mobility, he's in constant pain, can't stand for long and walks with a cane. The physical deterioration brought a sense of hopelessness. Sometimes he felt so badly, he wondered if he should just "make an end of it."

Defining the goal

Connecticut was one of a handful of states chosen for the federal Zero:2016 challenge, which aims to end all chronic homelessness by the end of next year. As part of that initiative, the state set out an ambitious plan to house every chronically homeless veteran by the end of 2015.

When Gov. Malloy made his announcement, nearly 300 veterans like Rodriguez had already been permanently housed and others were on a short-term path to permanent homes. The state reached this milestone through the coordinated efforts of the Reaching Home Veterans Workgroup, co-chaired by the CT Heroes Project and Partnership for Strong Communities.

Key stakeholders – government agencies, advocacy groups and service providers like CRT – examined the systemic barriers to housing veterans; set up a mechanism to identify vets who need services and alert the regional service provider; and held person-by-person case conferences to discuss the service and clinical needs of the individual or family.

At the same time, new resources became available to help veterans, including additional housing vouchers and increased assistance through a program called Support Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), which re-houses homeless families and stabilizes those about to lose their homes.

Veterans back on track

It was a case manager from SSVF who helped Rodriguez find his way from a transitional residence to his own sunny apartment in West Hartford. He was one of 147 veterans who moved into stable homes in the past year through CRT's integrated veterans' services; like Rodriguez, 52 of those were classified as chronically homeless. CRT's intervention also prevented 62 at-risk veterans from becoming homeless.

SSVF staff helped Rodriguez re-establish a legal address and apply for a state housing voucher. Once that came through, CRT helped with the security deposit and the first month's rent. But a household isn't stable until the budget balances. To cover basic needs, Rodriguez was referred for SNAP (food stamps) and his application for disability support is in process.

"I feel like things are finally turning around," Rodriguez told a friend, when they met at a weekly drop-in lunch for veterans. They're held at South Park Inn, a shelter in Hartford where Rodriguez has stayed in the past. Rodriguez said he enjoys seeing his friends, and also hearing about services that are available to him and others like him. "But it's an odd feeling to be here, and then go back to a nice apartment," he said. "It doesn't quite seem real."

From Secretary McDonald

It will take continued work on the part of many to keep veterans like Rodriguez moving toward the stable lives they deserve. "This progress would not be possible without the partnerships that have been built here in Connecticut and across the nation; partnerships across the federal government, with state and local governments, with non-profit organizations and with the private sector," said U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald, in August.

"This is not a static challenge; it is an ongoing challenge and we will keep at it because that is what the men and women who have served our nation have earned and deserve."



Volunteer Power: Strength in Numbers



Most birthday gifts go to the person blowing out the candles. But when Bob Warner turned 90, friends collected money for Community Renewal Team's Meals on Wheels program, a cause that's dear to Warner's heart.

For 20 years, Warner has delivered meals to homebound seniors. Three days a week, this retired engineer picks up hot and cold meals at a church in Vernon and heads out to see his "customers." He spends a little time chatting, offers a treat to their dogs, and heads home to call in his report about the people he's seen.

Warner is one of 227 volunteers in CRT's Elderly Nutrition Program, which serves more than 300,000 meals annually to seniors in 22 towns. About half of the volunteers are on the road, bringing food, conversation and a daily check-in to those who can't get out. Others volunteer in Senior Cafés, usually located in senior centers and apartment complexes, where older adults socialize over a hot lunch.

"I look forward to this every day," Warner said. "Knowing that we're providing food for people who can't get it for themselves, that's what makes it so great." Would he ever retire and turn in his coolers? Warner chuckles and says he'll probably quit ... in about 10 years.



Making a difference

From teens completing community service to retired adults finding a new calling, CRT volunteers contributed more than 123,000 hours in Central Connecticut last year. Leveraging this human resource is a key element of the Community Action movement: helping people invest time and talent in their own communities.

The largest group is in the Retired Senior & Volunteer Program, whose 382 volunteers are seen in hospitals, at Bradley Airport and – increasingly – in the public schools. RSVP Reads trains seniors to work one-on-one with students to improve their reading and build their confidence.

Thanks to a grant from Hartford Foundation for Public Giving's H. Louise Ruddell Fund, the program is expanding from 55 to 202 volunteers, serving 13 schools in Manchester, Vernon and Portland.

"The weekly coaching helps children increase their skills, and then they really look forward to reading," said Mary Lou Ruggiero, principal at Bowers School in Manchester, an RSVP site for more than 10 years. Research shows that students who are competent readers in third grade are more likely to have successful academic careers, because they can absorb written information.

Bob Warner (left) has delivered Meals on Wheels for 20 years, cheering up each of his "customers." RSVP Reads expanded to a corps of 202 trained coaches who work one-on-one with children (lower right). Volunteers used CRT's free summer meals as the centerpiece of a day camp for children in their neighborhood.



Lunch & learn

A unique new partnership in Hartford is also concentrating on education and connections for children. When the SANA/Gateway Apartments signed on to become one of CRT's summer meal sites, the management and residents wanted to go beyond serving healthy food.

There are hundreds of children in our complex, explained David Roane, the resident services coordinator for SANA and several other Carabetta properties. "We wanted to see how the free meals could serve as the centerpiece for a full summer program."

Roane and lead volunteer Jonathan Rodriguez recruited nine other residents to plan daily activities as well as serving both breakfast and lunch. They made camp tee shirts, printed leaflets and spread the word so effectively that more than 60 children were waiting when the doors opened.

By Labor Day, SANA had served 2,692 meals to nearly 100 children, who also enjoyed supervised activities. The volunteers started weekly family movie nights and raised funds for field trips – including a bus trip to the Bronx Zoo.

This was an exceptional example of a new partnership focusing on children's nutrition and health. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (which funds affordable housing) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (sponsor of the summer meals) are working with regional anti-hunger groups to establish more meal sites within housing developments.

"These volunteers have taken the partnership to a level we could never imagine," said Suzanne Piacentini, field office director for HUD. She spoke at a Summer Food Celebration at SANA that drew dignitaries including Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman and officials from several state and federal agencies.

But the organizers at SANA/Gateway Apartments weren't about to coast on their success. Taking advantage of CRT's new after school meal option, they designed a Homework Club that draws 40 children daily. Carabetta provided computers, Capital Workforce Partners sends teen-aged tutors and the volunteers manage meals and enrichment activities.

Rodriguez remains enthusiastic, as the SANA program grows. "I'm proud that we are working as a team to bring all of this together."





Health for All

In 1988, a staff member at CRT's Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Shelter phoned the University of Hartford's nursing program, asking if any of the students could help provide health services and education at the Hartford emergency shelter. The 88-bed program accepts men who may be chronic users of drugs or alcohol, and who have a wide variety of health issues.

Twenty-seven years after the nursing department first said 'yes,' the university and CRT are still working together to improve health outcomes for homeless men. McKinney became the first site in what would grow into today's Project Horizon, a multi-faceted service learning experience that addresses some of Hartford's most pressing healthcare needs.

For two semesters, every Registered Nurse pursuing a bachelor's degree at the University of Hartford spends at least four hours a week at a community placement: homeless shelters, transitional living residences, soup kitchens, neighborhood centers, senior centers, boys and girls clubs or urban schools.

Already employed in a variety of medical settings, these nurse-students can provide health assessments, nursing care and referrals for their partner organizations. At McKinney, for example, they administer flu shots, dress wounds, examine feet and monitor both blood sugar and blood pressure.

Promoting health

More important, however, is the opportunity to promote wellness and improve clients' understanding of their own medical issues and risks. At the beginning of each school year the nurses, staff and residents meet to discuss the areas of greatest concern. Perennial topics at McKinney include smoking, stress and hypertension, as well as mental health, sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and diabetes.



The nurses find a variety of ways to address these concerns, including large after-dinner discussions, quiet one-on-one conversations, meetings that feature outside speakers and videos. Over the years, some classes have also introduced music, art therapy and even a little meditation to help McKinney residents relax, reduce cravings, and lower their stress and their blood pressure.

"The nurses are absolutely fantastic," said Jose Vega, the longtime program manager at McKinney. "You wouldn't believe the ways that they get through to our guys."

Time for conversation

With a daytime and an evening team at the shelter for a total of eight hours each week, "our nurses have the time to sit with a group of three or four guys and talk with them about their health," said Dr. Karen Breda, who directs both Project Horizon and the entire baccalaureate in nursing program.

A common area of confusion is prescription medicine. "Most people don't understand the mechanics of their medications: what they do and how they work together," Breda said. "Say you have a person on three or more meds, and they don't know when they'll get back to a doctor. So they alternate the pills to make them last longer.

"Our students explain how the prescriptions work, how they can affect the quality and the length of their lives in either a positive or a very negative way. That's an eye opener! Then we help them navigate within the health care system so they can see the doctor and get to the pharmacy, to maintain that appropriate supply."

Students change attitudes

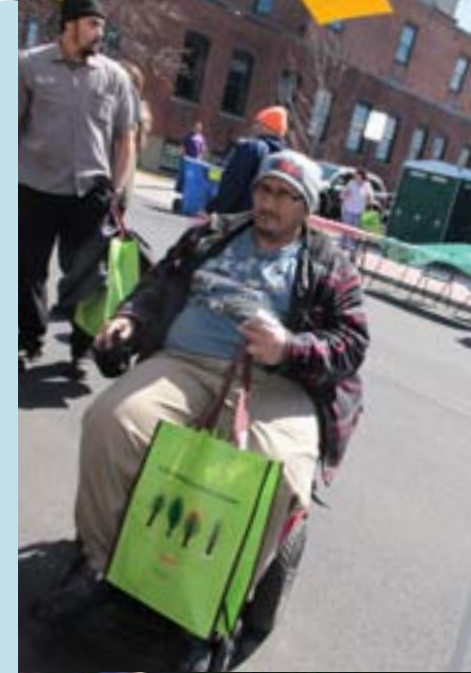
As they increase their understanding of the complex health and social issues faced in Hartford, the students are challenged to develop a capstone project that will break down stereotypes and help to reduce ethnic and racial health disparities. Several recent McKinney teams have created either photograph or video displays that put a compelling human face on the issues and statistics of homelessness.

The 2014-15 team chose a complex goal with a direct impact on the population they were serving. They put together a health fair that offered free exams, screenings, education and activities from 14 organizations. Closing the street beside the shelter allowed them to create a "fairground" with colorful tents, children's crafts and a space for teaching Zumba and other aerobic activities.

With other nursing students from the university, they publicized the fair at all area shelters, soup kitchens and health clinics; McKinney staff helped them reach out to unsheltered individuals, including those staying under bridges and along the Connecticut River.

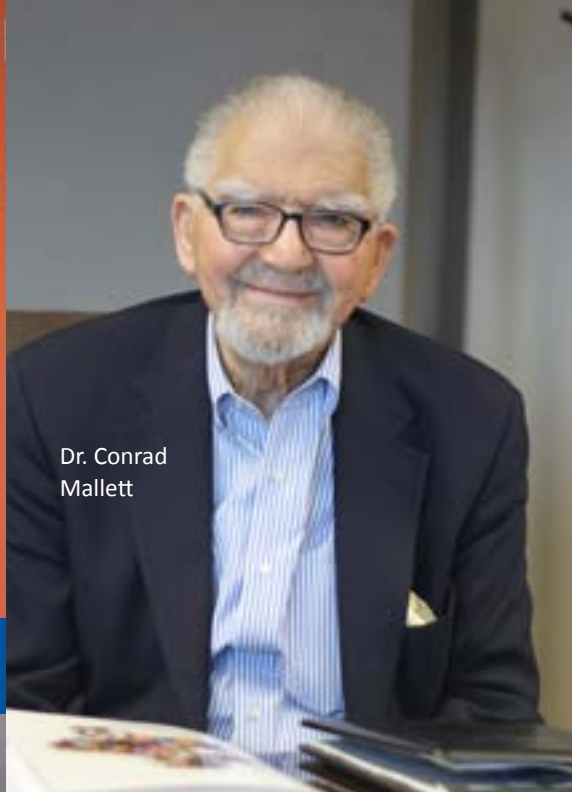
"This was about the most complicated thing I've ever helped organize," said Darlene Dionne, one of the students. "But it was also one of the most rewarding."

At the close of the day, there was talk about making the health fair an annual tradition. However, the final decision rests with the class that follows. "We will always react to the needs we see," Breda said. "We have to respect the process."





Lena Rodriguez, President/CEO



Dr. Conrad Mallett



Faith Jackson, Secretary



Gloria Jones



Mayor Daniel Drew
Middletown

CRT Board of Trustees



Fernando Betancourt, Chairperson



Marta Bentham



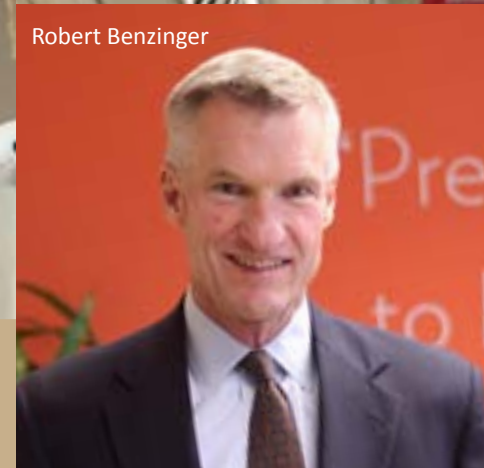
Rev. Norman Jones, Vice Chair



Mui Mui Hin-McCormick



Sen. Eric Coleman



Robert Benzinger



Dr. Wilfredo Nieves



Mary Everett



Daniel Schaefer



Robert Fishman



Robert A. Carubia



2014 Financials

Operating Support and Revenue

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Grants and Contracts | |
| Federal | \$41,429,722 |
| State | 10,237,812 |
| Private Weatherization Program | 2,202,379 |
| Contributions | |
| In-Kind | 2,399,215 |
| Elderly Nutrition Program Contributions | 191,773 |
| Fundraising | 434,794 |
| Supportive Housing Contributions | 235,337 |
| Other Revenue | |
| Education: Parent Fees and Subsidies | 1,773,960 |
| Elderly Nutrition Program Fees | 405,718 |
| Catering | 1,215,499 |
| Child and Adult Care Food Program Subsidies | 631,410 |
| Patient Fees | 873,842 |
| Rent Income Proceeds | 454,629 |
| CHEFA Debt Service | 186,742 |
| Other Income | 882,993 |
| Total Operating Support and Revenue | \$63,555,825 |
| Operating Expenses | |
| Salaries and Benefits | \$26,026,160 |
| Client Assistance | 18,562,326 |
| Materials and Supplies | 5,753,202 |
| Professional Fees and Contractual Services | 4,423,619 |
| Occupancy | 2,661,897 |
| Delegate Agencies | 2,658,167 |
| Other Expenses | 1,646,984 |
| Depreciation and Amortization | 1,135,401 |
| Travel and Transportation | 675,890 |
| Interest Expense | 56,928 |
| Total Operating Expenses | 63,600,574 |
| Change in Net Assets | (\$44,749) |

Expenses by Function



| | | |
|--|-------------------|------------|
| ■ Energy Related Services | 22,088,370 | 35% |
| ■ Children's Services, including Head Start and Child Care | 21,256,969 | 33% |
| ■ Housing and Shelter Services | 4,567,569 | 7% |
| ■ Elderly Nutrition Services | 3,153,429 | 5% |
| ■ Other Community Services | 4,406,453 | 7% |
| ■ Alternative Incarceration Services | 1,304,053 | 2% |
| ■ Job Training and Placement | 1,220,520 | 2% |
| ■ Supportive Services (Management and General) | 5,603,211 | 9% |

Source: CRT and affiliates combined financial statements as of December 31, 2014.

Funders and Donors

Community Renewal Team gratefully acknowledges the following individuals, organizations and public agencies for investing in our communities and families through CRT. We are proud of the trust that is demonstrated with each gift, grant and contract. By funding CRT programs, each of those mentioned here supports the region's efforts to eliminate poverty.

Federal Funding Sources

- Corporation for National and Community Service
- US Department of Agriculture
- US Department of Energy
- US Department of Health and Human Services
- US Department of Housing and Urban Development
- US Department of Justice
- US Department of Labor
- US Department of the Treasury-Internal Revenue Service
- US Department of Veterans Affairs
- US Probation and Pretrial Services
- CT Department of Transportation
- CT Health and Education Facilities Authority
- CT Health Insurance Exchange
- CT Housing and Finance Authority
- CT Judicial Branch/Court Support Services
- CT Office of Early Childhood
- CT Office of Policy and Management
- CT Office of the Victim Advocate
- State Education Resource Center

State Funding Sources

- CT Airport Authority
- CT Department of Children and Families
- CT Department of Correction
- CT Department of Economic and Community Development
- CT Department of Education
- CT Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
- CT Department of Energy and Environmental 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

Municipalities

- Avon
- Bloomfield
- Canton
- Clinton
- Cromwell
- Deep River
- Durham
- East Haddam
- East Hartford
- Enfield
- Essex
- Haddam
- Hartford
- Hebron
- Killingworth
- Manchester
- Middlefield

- Middletown
- Newington
- North Branford
- Portland
- West Hartford
- Westbrook
- Wethersfield
- Windsor
- Windsor Locks

Foundations, Businesses and Organizations

- A Plus Installation
- AC Development
- Achievement First Academy
- Advanced Behavioral Health ADP
- Aetna Foundation
- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
- All Waste
- Archdiocese of Hartford Bishops Annual Appeal
- Thomas Atkins Memorial Fund
- Atlanta Psychological Associates, Inc.
- Avon High Booster Club
- Benevity Community Impact Fund-American Endowment Foundation
- Berkshire Bank
- Bernard Lieberman Memorial Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Hartford
- Boston Financial Investment Management
- Braman Termite and Pest Elimination
- Brandeis University
- Brothers Oil Company
- Brown Rudnick
- Bruno and Associates
- Budget Printers
- Burton and Phyllis Hoffman Foundation
- Connecticut Association of Latinos in Higher Education
- Canon Solutions America
- Capital City Education Alliance
- Capital Workforce Partners
- Cart Concepts
- Central Insurance
- Chef Jay Enterprises, LLC
- CLSJ Foundation, Inc.
- Connecticut Association for Community Action
- Connecticut Community Care, Inc.
- Connecticut Trooper Magazine
- Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Connecticut Health Foundation
- Connecticut Home Solutions
- Connecticut Natural Gas
- Connecticut No Kid Hungry
- Connecticut United Auto Workers
- Constitution Advisory of Wells Fargo Advisors
- Crown Supermarket
- Diversified Telecom
- Dixon Challenge
- Dynamic Professionals
- Eagle Rivet
- East Granby Congregational Church
- East Hartford Police Department
- Eastern Connecticut State University
- End Hunger CT!
- Energy Resource Group
- Essex Newbury North
- Eversource
- Express Kitchens/Star Hardware
- Family Life Education
- Fisher Foundation
- First Congregational Church of East Hartford
- First Congregational Church of Vernon-Board of Deacons
- First Congregational Church/United Church of Christ Bloomfield
- First Giving
- Fleeting and Sons
- Freeman Companies
- Fresh Point Connecticut
- Friendship Circle
- Gallagher Buick
- Ginny Scheller
- The Harry E. Goldfarb Family Foundation
- Goodwin College
- Grant Thornton
- Greater Hartford Community Foundation
- Greater Hartford Jaycees
- Grounds Guys
- M.P. Guinan Associates
- Habitat for Humanity
- Hallmark
- Halloran and Halloran
- Hartford County Bar Foundation
- Hartford Foundation for Public Giving-H. Louise Ruddell Charitable Fund
- Hartford Healthcare/Integrated Care Partners
- Hartford Hospital
- Hartford Municipal Employees Federal Credit Union
- Hartford Provision
- Hartford Steam Boiler
- Harvard Pilgrim
- Home Depot Foundation
- Imagineers
- Jewish Community Foundation-Bernard Lieberman Memorial Fund and the Penny H. Cohn Fund for Indigent Elderly
- Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford
- Journey Home, Inc.
- Knights of Columbus Isabella Assembly #0122-Southington
- La Boca Mexican Cantina
- Lake Garda Elementary School
- Law Offices of James A. Welcome
- Local Independent Charities of America
- Mansfield Paper Company
- Maple Hill Farms
- Max Bibb
- MBH Architecture
- Meals on Wheels Association of America
- Metzger Lazarek and Plumb
- Mike's Auto and Towing
- Milford Rocks
- MIMS LLC
- Mitchell Fuel



Our Tee Off With Women golf tournament supports efforts to end domestic violence and services to women who have survived abuse. This year's tournament brought in \$39,000 to be shared between CRT's programs and Interval House.



Whole Foods of West Hartford donated 5% of its July 2 revenue to Generations, CRT's housing and services for grandparents raising their grandchildren. The store donated \$7,012, which helped to cover the summer programming for the 63 children who live there.

Yankee Gas Service Company
YMCA of Greater Hartford
YouthBuild USA

Individuals

Julie Ackerman
Sharon Alleman
Emily Bailey
Lynn Baldoni
Ashley Baron
Susan Barzottini
Doris and Rafael Battle
Carole Becker
Ed Begley
Philip Bellico
Walter Benjamin
Alan Berard
Fernando Betancourt
Kelly Bilodeau
Barbara Blain
Diane Bokron
Brent Borgnine
Karen Bowen
Yvonne Bruno
Nancy Budd
Andrea Butler
Lawrence Byar
Amy Carey
Sally Casanghino
Gretchen Chaffey
In Memory of John McKinney
Richard Cohen
Allison Coleman
Sharon Cowell
Victor Cruse
Candace Cunningham
Beverly Dalpian
Gina D'Ambruso
Deborah Davis
Dalyn Delgado
Schuster Driscoll
Patti Driscoll
Lawrence Duffany
Mayo Edgehill
Mary Everett
Maureen Fahey
Candance Fay
Bob and Susan Fishman
Sandra Fitzpatrick
Joseph Fortier
Ellen Foster
Catharine Freeman
Hugh Freeney
Neal Freuden

David Galonska
Liana Garcia Fisher
Carolyne Gatesy
Amy Genser
Dina Gifford Aldrich
Helen Goewey
Mary Gracyalny
Jeannean Griffin
Becky Griffiths
John Groves
Martha Guidry
Mary Phil Guinan
Harold Hart
Joel Henry
Irene Herdon
Cynthia Huge
Susan Isch
Sarah Ivins
John Izzo
D. Joseph Jackson
Faith Jackson
Dave Johnson
Susan Joys
Bernice Jurasin
Patty Kent
Chris Kinney
Victor Krouse
William and Janine Kuehn
Jim LaCoursiere
Denise Langdon
Brenda Larkin
Jay Lewis
Jody Osko Lewis
Ellen Long
Jay Lorinsky
Tara and Daniel Lynch
Anne Mahoney
Dr. Conrad Mallett
Dan Mara
George Marshall
Yvonne Martin
Krista Mazzuca
Tracey McCluskey
Beverly McNeil
Yvette Melendez
Eleanor Michael
Heidi Milbier
John Mitchell
Mike Mitchell
Barbara Mooney
Kelvin Moore
Sarah Moore
Wayne Morgan
Patrice Moulton
Tim Nicholson

Dr. Wilfredo and Iris Nieves
Brienn and Brendan O'Hazo
David Osella
Melanie Osley
Ted and Nancy Pappas
Lisa Pare
Diana Pepin
James and Karen Pestana
Natasha Pierre
Steve Pintarich
Rebecca Plavcan
Monique and John Polidaro
Kristin Pollaard
Erika Profenno
Tom Ragonese
Anne Rivers
Lena Rodriguez
Hector Rodriguez
Janice SanSouci
Robert Scagliarini
Jeffrey Schleidt
Virginia Schneller
Sydney Schulman
Valerie Seery
Sarah Shapiro
Nancy Shapiro
Marco Signorello
Megan Sloan
Stephen Sottile
Sarah Stevens
Carole Stoneman
Ellen Strain
William and Shirley Thompson
Gail Tilley
Tim Toner
Margarita Torres
Nancy Tyler
Faith Voswinkel
Katherine Walker
Kitty Walker
James A. Welcome
Jesse Wescott
Anita Wesley
Darlene White
Ron Williams
Carole Witkowski
Monica Wlodarczyk
Rare Womack
Cheryl Woodin

In Kind Donations

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
Acer

Acqua di Parisi - Perfumes 4 U
American Eagle Federal Credit Union
AmWins
Antioch Church
Black Eyed Sally's
Bob's Discount Furniture
Bozie Stearns
Bradford Renaissance Photos
Bridgeport Tigers
Budget Printers
The Bushnell+A262
Capital City Ryders
Carter Sutherland
Center for Healing Therapies
Central CT Paralegal Association
Charities of Hope
Charter Oak Health Van
Chili's
City of Hartford (HIV Testing)
Connecticut Golf Show
Connecticut Science Center
Cricket Phones
Crown Supermarket
CT River Academy
CT Science Center
Dattco
Dish
Eastbury School
Excel Fitness
Famous Footwear
Feed the Children
Flanders Restaurant
FM Maintenance
Foodshare
Foxwoods Resort Casino
Frito Lay
Golfers Warehouse
Greater Hartford Habitat for Humanity
Greater Hartford Jaycees Foundation
Hall High School
Hallmark
Hands on Hartford
Hartford Municipal Employees Federal Credit union
Hartford Wolf Pack
Hartford Yard Goats
Home Depot
Jade Marketing Group
Jamberry
Jehovah Nissi Church
Joe's Pizza
Julie Lang Dance Studio

Knox Parks
Lake of Isles
Lyman Orchards
Mandell Jewish Community Center
Metropolitan Community Church
Michelle Bonner
New Britain Rock Cats
Nomad's Adventure Quest
Northside Church
Omar Coffee
Ovation/Digital Benefits Group
Options
Panera Bread
Parksite
Pepsico
Pie Chapter- Retired Teachers East Hartford
Pilgrim Way
Pratt & Whitney
Price Rite
Prime Wellness of CT
Project Horizon
Quassy Amusement Park
Sacred Heart Church
Safari Micro
Sandler and Mara, PC
Salute
Ski Sundown
Sparkle Jewelry
Springhill Suites
St. Christopher's Church
St. Francis Cares Injury Prevention Center
St. Francis of Assisi Church
St. Joseph's Church
Stew Leonard's
Stop & Shop
Susan Kneip (Independent)
Sysco
The Bushnell
The Gap
The Infinity Group
Theaterworks
The Tobacco Shop
Time Factory Watch Outlet
Tina Williams (Independent)
Toyo Foundation
Toys for Tots
Trinity College
USI Consulting Group
Verizon
Victory Cathedral
Vitamin World
Whalley Computers
Xfinity Music Hall and Bistro

Monolith Services Group
National Arts Program Foundation
Network for Good
New Covenant United Methodist Church
New England Conservation Services
North Central Area Agency on Aging
Oasis Institute/Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield
Operation Fuel
Ovation/Digital Benefits Group
Partnership for Strong Communities
People's United Community Foundation
Performance Food Group
Preferred Services
Price Chopper's Golub Foundation
Price Rite
Pronto Printer of Newington
Prudential Foundation
Quassy Amusement Park
Reid and Riege
Robinson and Cole
Sandler and Mara
SBM Charitable Foundation
Selective Insurance
ShopRite of Manchester-Cohen Family
Sound Tigers
South Congregational Church
South Congregational Church of East Hartford
Southeast Agency
Sparkle Jewelry
Sportech-Enterprise
St John's Episcopal Church
St. Christopher School
St. Francis Hospital

St. Timothy's Roman Catholic Church
Stanley Black and Decker
Staples
Star Hardware
TD Bank Charitable Foundation
TEAM, Inc.
Thoroughclean
Thurston Foods
Toyo Tires
TRANE
Travelers Championship
Travelers Community Connections
Travelers Employee Giving Program
Tricom Systems
Tyco Integrated Security
UBS
Unitarian Universalist Society-East
United Financial Bancorp, Inc.
United Illuminating
United Way of Central and Northeastern CT
Unum
UPS Foundation
Victory Energy Solutions
The Village for Families and Children
VOYA Financial
Walmart Foundation
Waterford Group
Waverly Market
WB Mason
Wethersfield-Rocky Hill Elks
Whalley Computers
Whittlesey and Hadley
Whole Foods
Williams Electric
WLB Group of Companies
Workforce Alliance
Xerox

We Thank the American Legion

In July 2014, Commander Butch Hansen of the American Legion, Connecticut Department named CRT's Veterans Landing to be the Commander's Project for his year in office. American Legion posts around the state collected donations and held fundraisers for the project, which will be one of the country's first affordable assisted living developments for veterans. By the end of the year, the American Legion had donated \$17,798 to Veterans Landing, and many posts continue to collect additional funds.



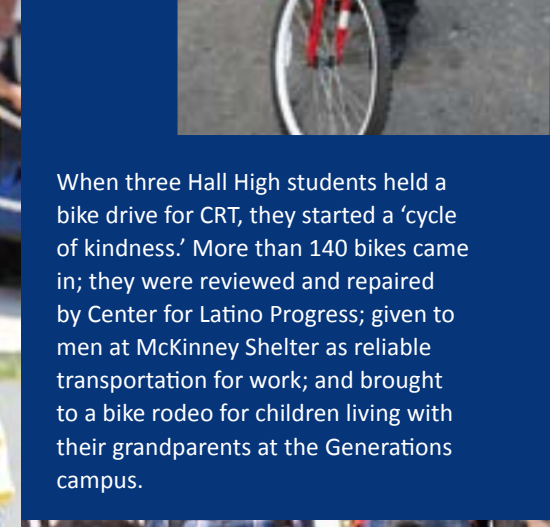
We wish to thank:

American Legion Post 50-Ansonia
American Legion Post 25-Beacon Falls
American Legion Post 105-Cromwell
American Legion Post 24-Derby
American Legion Post 53-Farmington
American Legion Post 48-Guilford
American Legion Post 114 Groton
American Legion Post 150-Hamden
American Legion Post 153-Kent
American Legion Post 180-Lebanon
American Legion Unit 102-Manchester
American Legion District 2- Milford
American Legion Post 91 Moosup
American Legion Post 17- Naugatuck
American Legion Post 28-New Hartford
American Legion Post 117-Newington
American Legion Post 128-Niantic
American Legion Post 152-Pawcatuck
American Legion Post 69- Portland
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 13-Putnam
American Legion Post 78- Ridgefield
American Legion Post 159 Riverton
American Legion Post 123-Rocky Hill
American Legion Post 10-Seymour
American Legion Post 16-Shelton
American Legion Post 26-Stafford Springs
American Legion Post 72-Southington
American Legion Post 104 Taftville
American Legion Post 141 Trumbull
American Legion Post 73-Wallingford
American Legion Post 187-Wallingford
American Legion Post 1 Waterbury
American Legion Post 103-Westbrook
American Legion Post 36-Windsor Locks
American Legion Post 43-Winsted
American Legion Post 165- Wolcott
Sons of the American Legion Squadron 16- Shelton





A circle of collaborators for bicycles!



With volunteers and donations from Pepsico, PriceRite and Feed the Children, CRT provided more than a week's worth of groceries to 800 families in one busy afternoon at the Xfinity Theatre.

When three Hall High students held a bike drive for CRT, they started a 'cycle of kindness.' More than 140 bikes came in; they were reviewed and repaired by Center for Latino Progress; given to men at McKinney Shelter as reliable transportation for work; and brought to a bike rodeo for children living with their grandparents at the Generations campus.

Partners help feed the community



When Meals on Wheels faced funding cuts, Toyo Tires, Crown Market and PriceRite stepped in to keep the program on the road. Toyo contributed \$5,000 and a new set of truck tires; Crown brought \$2,367 and PriceRite donated \$10,000 from the company and its customers.

The 14th annual Golf Classic to support Meals on Wheels was our most successful ever, bringing in over \$75,000 in sponsorships and player fees. The fall foliage was gorgeous at Lake of Isles in North Stonington. Famed sportscaster and former NFL star Beasley Reece Jr. (above) was the day's emcee.





Dining room before renovation

The sixth annual year-end festival for all of CRT's Early Care and Education programs drew nearly 1,100 families to Bushnell Park. Partners such as the Hartford Police, Fire and Health departments set up tables and educational displays, while clowns, jugglers and stilt-walkers entertained the crowds. Children tried out African drums, Zumba dancing and old-time hula hoops. Many dads took the day off to enjoy the fair with their children!

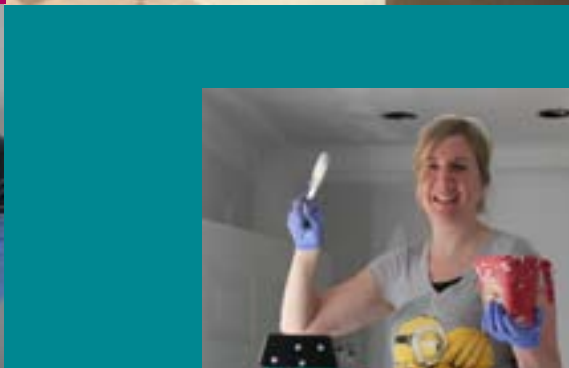


The Habitat for Humanity ReStore took on a big decorating task: Renovating and re-furnishing our East Hartford Shelter to create a more homey and family-friendly environment! The lounge, dining room and study area got a makeover, with help from Boyles Furniture. Parents and children love the new look!



Teaming up with Habitat

A team from CRT led by CEO Lena Rodriguez, right, had a great time at Habitat for Humanity's annual Women Build Week in Hartford. Who knew that our staff could spackle, paint and even hang wallboard!



Head Start celebrates a 50th year!



Every CRT preschool center celebrated the 50th anniversary of Head Start with roses, to honor the signing in the White House Rose Garden. The banner at right, created by children at Locust Street Center, was brought to the state celebration at the Capitol.





National Arts - Coming up on 25 years!

Don't miss the 25th anniversary show of CRT's National Arts/Local Color

Capitol Community College
950 Main Street, Hartford CT
From January 22 - February 8, 2016

For details go to crtct.org

