



Community Service



Community Pride



COMMUNITY SERVICE WORK SITES APRIL 2004

April 1	Ebony Horse Women Ranch - Vine Street	April 19	FOODSHARE - Grace Episcopal, Dutch Point
April 2	FOODSHARE - La Casa de Puerto Rico, Faith Manor, Grace Episcopal, Russ Street	April 20	Garden Street, Mahoney Village
April 5	Mahoney Village	April 21	Albany Avenue, Woodland Street
April 6	Mark Twain Drive, Grafton Street	April 22	Dutch Point
April 7	Broad Street	April 23	FOODSHARE - Mahoney Village, Smith Towers, Golden Age Senior Center
April 8	Homestead Avenue	April 26	Park Street
April 12	Franklin Avenue	April 27	Granby Street, Burnham Street
April 13	Park Street	April 28	York Street, Zion Street, Ward Street
April 14	Washington Street, Ward Street	April 29	Washington Street
April 15	Windsor Street., Dutch Point	April 30	FOODSHARE - Faith Manor, La Casa de Puerto Rico
April 16	FOODSHARE - Faith Manor		

COM. SERVICE PERFORMED AT MERCY HOUSING & SHELTER & EBONY HORSE WOMEN RANCH THROUGHOUT THE MONTH
INFORMATION PROVIDED BY CHRIS MENA, CPA, COMMUNITY COURT COMMUNITY SERVICE TEAM

HARTFORD POLICE ACADEMY CADETS EXPERIENCE COMMUNITY COURT

Whether it comes from speaking to students graduating from high school, or a through young people being instilled with values by their grandparents, imparting wisdom to the next generation lays the foundation for a productive future for those who follow in our footsteps. It is no different with the police.

With this in mind, the Community Court is pleased to continue a recent tradition of having Hartford Police Academy cadets visit the Community Court as part of their training curriculum. During their visit, Hartford's future police officers learn about the Community Court and how it relates to their community policing efforts by meeting with the Presiding Judge, Jorge A. Simón and Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton, observing a court session, and participating in a follow-up question and answer session.

Through arrangements made with Hartford Police Academy instructor Sgt. Emory Hightower, nearly sixty cadets will visit the Community Court in Hartford, over three days in May.

"By offering a balance of accountability and social services, the Community Court is a resource these future officers can utilize to both enforce quality of life crimes and get people the help they may need," Chris Pleasanton said, "We are pleased they have had an opportunity to see the positive impact their community policing efforts will have in improving the safety and quality of life for all Hartford-area residents."

Please feel free to email the court with questions or comments at:

Hartford.Courtcourt@jud.state.ct.us

and visit the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch website at:

www.jud.state.ct.us



80 Washington Street, Hartford, CT 06106

May 2004 News & Updates

Produced by Chris M. Pleasanton, Volume 6, Issue 5

NEW COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT HOTLINE

860-756-7000

The Community Court in Hartford has implemented a new hotline local residents can call to suggest community service projects in Hartford. If you have a suggested project, the Community Court invites you to call the hotline at (860) 756-7000, and leave a message with your suggested project and contact information. A member of our Community Service Team will return your call within a week to discuss your suggested project. All feasible community service projects suggested through the hotline be prioritized by the Community Service Team Program Managers, Chris Mena and Manny Negron, with Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton.

The Community Court's standard rules for acceptable community service projects will still apply: We will not perform community service on the site of a private business or institution, nor can we perform work on privately owned property. The Community Court does not make any guarantee that we will perform community service for every suggested project, nor the time or order in which acceptable projects will be handled.

PLEASE NOTE:
In order to maintain a fair process, the Community Court will not accept community service projects unless they are received through this hotline.



"It is our hope that this hotline will afford every interested citizen a fair and equal opportunity to suggest a project and to receive a timely response for their suggestion," Chris Pleasanton said. "It will also help us identify new projects we might not have otherwise been aware of."

MONTHLY COMMUNITY COURT STATISTICS APRIL 2004

Hours of Community Service	522
Total Number of Cases Processed	659
Number of Human Services Referrals	71
Referrals to HAMP (Hartford Area Mediation)	31



CHS MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH COMMUNITY COURT

There are many challenges for people who are trying to overcome the obstacles of substance abuse and societal reentry after a period of incarceration. Add to that a minimal institutional knowledge of cultural needs, and the chances for success become even slimmer. One of Hartford's most dynamic social services agencies, Community Health Services (CHS) is making a strong effort to bridge that gap by providing culturally sensitive treatment through its African Men In Recovery (AMIR) and Hispanic Men In Recovery (HAMIR) programs.

The AMIR and HAMIR programs provide a foundation upon which participants can meet challenges of substance abuse recovery, and the more daunting task of returning to society from incarceration. Through personal and group counseling sessions, educational seminars, and mentoring programs in which the cultural expectations of African-American and Hispanic men are also addressed, CHS works with those in need to stay on a path to success.

The Community Court, working closely with CHS Counselor Dorian Parker, has forged a successful working relationship with CHS in an effort to work with some of its most troubled clients.

"I have given a few of our most incorrigible defendants, men who have not responded constructively to any form of assistance or punishment, one last opportunity to avoid jail by working with CHS," Presiding Judge Jorge A. Simón said. "I have been impressed with the changes I have seen in some of these men after some time working with CHS."

In addition to working together to help those with long-term social problems and long criminal histories, Mr. Parker and his CHS colleagues have joined the Community Court in working with local teens through the Court's Lifeskills Program for Young Offenders. By teaching the kids some basic concepts about sufficiency, through straight talk and knowledge, the hope is many of them will avoid the rougher path some of their friends and elders may have taken.

"Dorian has brought a lot of knowledge to the program and engages the kids in a positive manner that really gets their attention," Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton said. "He cares about the kids and they respond. We are very grateful to Dorian and everyone at CHS for their participation."

Recently, the efforts of CHS were recognized by the State Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), who awarded CHS the prestigious DMHAS Recovery Institutes Excellency Award in recognition of their AMIR and HAMIR programs.

Congratulations to CHS from all of us at the Community Court in Hartford.



Dorian Parker and Judge Simón holding CHS' DMHAS Recovery Center Excellency Award

YO! HARTFORD CONNECTS WITH KIDS AT COMMUNITY COURT

The Community Court in Hartford is pleased to announce a new partnership with Youth Opportunity Hartford, more commonly known as YO! Hartford. Each Monday and Tuesday, Marcel Cicero, a Youth Development Specialist with YO! Hartford, will work out of the Community Court's social services offices to talk about the program and offer some kids who come through the Court an opportunity to participate.

YO! Hartford is a program that provides a wide range of services to young people between the ages of 14 to 21 (16 to 21 through Community Court), including lifeskills training, entrepreneurship classes, peer-to-peer mentoring, and job readiness training. The main goals of YO! Hartford is to assist young people in obtaining a high school education, employment, and college or job training. YO! Hartford participants must reside in one of seven key areas identified by the United States Census, which are Hartford's Northeast, Upper Albany, Frog Hollow, South Green/Sheldon Charter Oak, Clay Arsenal, and Asylum Hill neighborhoods. Community Court kids from other neighborhoods will be connected with other programs throughout the city.

"The Community Court is grateful for YO! Hartford's commitment to helping the kids who come through the Court," Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton said. "This program offers a lot of opportunities for kids to explore their abilities and realize their potential."

For more information on the YO! Hartford program, please call its new offices at 860-947-3118 or 860-493-2441.

YO! Hartford Youth Development Specialists Marcel Cicero & Ramon Flores

