



State of Connecticut Judicial Branch Community Court Session At Hartford

80 Washington Street, Hartford, CT 06106

November 2004 News & Updates

Produced by Chris Pleasanton, Vol. 6, Issue 11

EXCITING NEW INITIATIVES AT THE COMMUNITY COURT

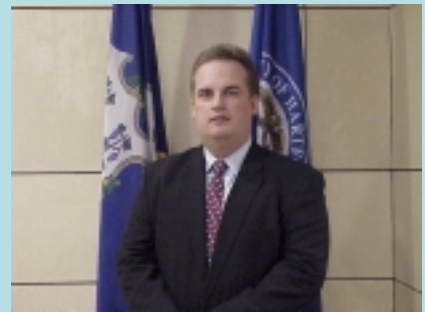
2004 has been an exciting year at the Community Court in Hartford with many improvements to the quality of existing programs and the development of several initiatives that expand the opportunities the Court can offer.

Within the Community Court's existing programs, the biggest change occurred within the Women's Holistic Health program. The program has been expanded up from 5 to 10 days of classes and community service in order to provide a more in depth educational experience for the participants. Mandatory drug testing also has been instituted as part of the program and has served not only to weed out participants who are using illegal drugs (against the rules of the program) but has become a motivating factor for many of the participants to stay clean and succeed in the program. The initial result of these changes indicates that program graduates are much more stabilized and have an improved ability to lead productive and healthier lives.

Many outside agencies also have joined with the Court to develop initiatives to help our defendants. STRIVE/SAND, YO! Hartford, and the Credit Retrieval Program (see page 2) have placed representatives from their organizations at the Community Court several days each week in order to provide defendants with the opportunity to access the educational and job training benefits of their programs.

In addition, court officials are working with the Hartford YWCA to explore housing opportunities for women involved with Court programs.

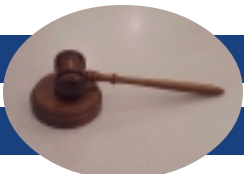
The Community Court in Hartford is excited to bring these and many other initiatives to fruition. We look forward to updating you on their progress in 2005.



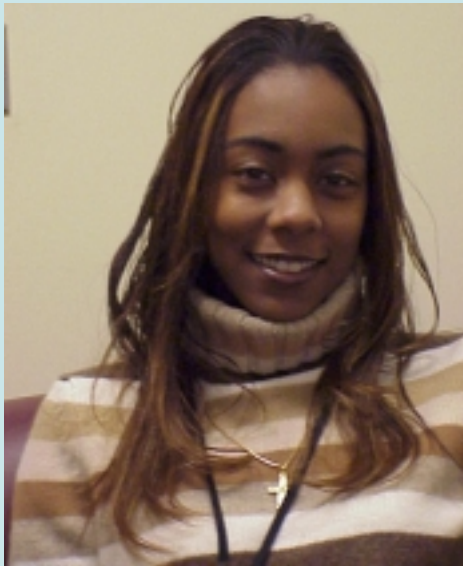
Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton,
Community Court's liaison
in the development
of these initiatives

OCTOBER 2004 COMMUNITY COURT STATISTICS

Hours of Community Service	2466
Total Number of Cases Processed	521
Number of Human Services Referrals	82
Referrals to HAMP (Mediation)	26



CREDIT RETRIEVAL PROGRAM WORKING ON-SITE AT THE COMMUNITY COURT



Brittany Strums, Credit Retrieval Program Representative

The Community Court in Hartford is pleased to announce a new partnership with YO! Hartford's Credit Retrieval Program in which credit retrieval representative Brittany Strums will work on site at the Community Court each Tuesday morning to meet with defendants and help those who may benefit from the program to enroll.

The Credit Retrieval Program is open to Hartford youth aged 16 to 21 who have officially withdrawn from high school. The program consists of two classes in basic math and English, from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM. After participants complete 26 hours of class work, they are referred to a nine week Work Readiness Program. The first week of the program involves job training basics such as cover letters and resumes, interview skills and professional attire. After the one-week training, the youths are interviewed and placed at a company for eight weeks. This program is a paid internship with the money being provided by South End Community Services. Upon completing the program the youths are awarded a certificate of completion from South End Community Services. Many participants have had the chance to become permanent employees of the companies they interned with.

In addition, the credits earned by participants are accepted in the Hartford School system and can be applied to earning a diploma. Participants interested in continuing their education are assisted in either returning to a mainstream school or another program including the Diploma Plus Program and the Credit Diploma Program.

"The Credit Retrieval Program offers a great opportunity for kids to reconnect with their education," Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton said. "We are very pleased the program has joined us in partnership and very grateful for the opportunity they make available to our defendants."

A yellow flyer for the Credit Retrieval Program. The title "Credit Retrieval Program" is in a stylized font. Below it, the text asks: "Are You Between The Ages Of 16-21 & In Need Of Credits To Earn Your High School Diploma?" and "Are You Looking To Learn Job Readiness Skills?". It features a large "OPEN ENROLLMENT!!!" graphic. Underneath, it lists "Earn Basic English Credit And/Or Basic Math Credit" and "Obtain Job Readiness Skills". The location is "Adult Education North Campus Room 111, 2550 Main Street". The morning schedule is 8:30-11:30 and afternoon job readiness training. Contact information for Brittany Strums (695-7915, 547-1426 Ext. 7520), Ron Tate (547-1426 Ext. 7418), and Mavis Chappell (543-8845) is provided at the bottom.

For more information on the Credit Retrieval Program, please contact Brittany Strums at 547-1426 ext. 7520

Email the court at:
Hartford.Commcourt@jud.state.ct.us

RECENT COMINGS & GOINGS AT THE COMMUNITY COURT



Marshal Jack Goldberg

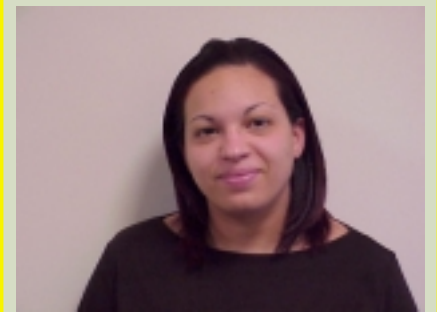
The Community Court in Hartford would like to wish a fond farewell to Marshal Jack Goldberg upon his retirement. Jack served as judicial marshal for seven years, six of them at 80 Washington Street.

"Jack was a hardworking, loyal, and caring Marshal who is a friend to all of us," Supervising Judicial Marshal Tom Grodecki said. "Although he's only been gone for a couple days, Jack is already missed by everyone."

Mayda Julia, Community Service Team

Joining the Community Service Team as administrative assistant is Mayda Julia. Mayda, who previously worked in juvenile detention, is responsible for the daily management of the community service office and upkeep of records.

"Mayda is a tremendous asset to our office," Community Service Manager Chris Mena said. "She is a perfect fit."



Ramon Flores, Community Service Team

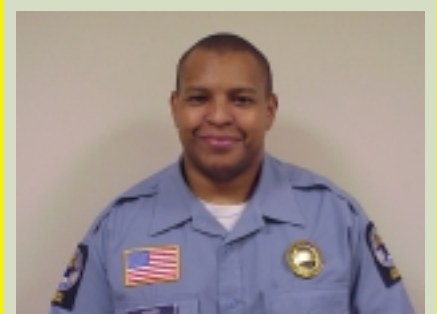
After serving as a youth counselor with YO! Hartford, Ramon Flores recently joined the Community Court as a community service field supervisor.

"Ramon is doing a great job keeping the work crews focused on doing the best they can for the Community," Chris Mena said. "We are glad to have him on staff"

Marshal Manny Arango

Another welcome addition to the Community Court is Judicial Marshal Manny Arango. Manny recently became a judicial marshal after having worked for the State Department of Correction. Manny also is a student at Central Connecticut State University where he studies sociology

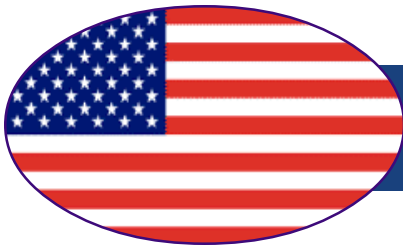
"Manny acts with professionalism and has been a good addition to our team." Supervising Judicial Marshal Tom Grodecki said.



A SPECIAL GET WELL WISH!

A fond wish for a very speedy recovery to Judicial Marshal Bill Faber from all of your friends at the Community Court.

"Bill, we miss your smiles and friendship," Judge Simón said. "Get well soon!"



Community Service



Community Pride



Community Service Work Sites October 2004

- October 1 FOODSHARE, Broadview Terrace, Hillside Avenue, Sherbrooke Avenue
- October 4 Broadview Terrace, Hillside Avenue, Sherbrooke Avenue, Flatbush Avenue
- October 5 Dutch Point
- October 6 Forest Street, South Marshall Street, Imlay Street, Laurel Street, Sigourney Street
- October 7 Tower Avenue, Waverly Street
- October 8 FOODSHARE, Mather, Russ & Broad Streets
- October 9 FOODSHARE, Asylum Avenue
- October 12 Nelton Court
- October 13 Mather Street, Center Street
- October 14 Park Street, Main Street, Zion Street
- October 15 FOODSHARE
- October 18 Colt Park, Wawarme Street
- October 19 Van Dyke Avenue, Reserve Road MDC
- October 20 Homestead Avenue, Westbourne Parkway
- October 21 Weston Street, Jennings Road, Veteran's Highway
- October 22 FOODSHARE, Nelton Court
- October 25 Jefferson Street, Affleck Street, Washington Street, Charter Oak Landing
- October 26 Capen Street, Main Street, Elmer Street
- October 27 Mahoney Village
- October 28 New Britain Avenue, Fairfield Avenue, Newington Avenue
- October 29 FOODSHARE



COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT HOTLINE

756-7000

PLEASE CALL WITH YOUR PROJECT!



Please feel free to email the court with questions or comments at:
Hartford.Commcourt@jud.state.ct.us

and visit the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch website at:

www.jud.state.ct.us