

State of Connecticut  
Judicial Branch  
Community Court  
Session  
At  
Hartford

80 Washington Street, Hartford, CT 06106

# October 2004 News & Updates

Produced by Chris Pleasanton, Vol. 6, Issue 10

## WOMEN'S EXPO A SUCCESS

The second annual Women's Support Program Women's Expo "Celebrating Mutual Connections: Caring For One Another" was an unqualified success in providing a foundation for friendship and support by bringing many women in direct contact with available services. This year's expo was held on October 22, 2004, in the auditorium of the DMHAS/Capitol Region Mental Health Center at 500 Vine Street in Hartford.

Representatives from many local social service agencies, including STRIVE/SAND, the Hispanic Health Council, and the YWCA, had tables and were available to share information on their programs and to answer questions from interested women.

The Women's Support Program is a three-year, grant-funded program aimed at providing rehabilitative and restorative therapies for women with substance abuse and mental health issues. The program deals with many women referred by the Community Court, GA14 Superior Court in Hartford, and the Office of Adult Probation. One of the primary goals of the program, and one of the main reasons for the expo, is to connect these women with support services in our community to enhance their abilities at rebuilding their lives. The expo is also an opportunity for service providers to connect with one another and to learn firsthand from the women about their needs.

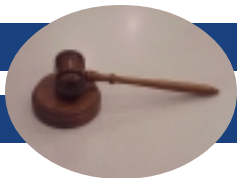


Women's Support Program Team, Director Rocio Chang, Kate Henry, Karen LeBlanc

"We are very grateful to each of the organizations that participated in the expo," WSP Director Rocio Chang said. "Being able to put women in touch with services that can help them is our biggest measure of success with the expo. With so many organizations and participants, I am happy to say this year's expo was a success."

## SEPTEMBER 2004 COMMUNITY COURT STATISTICS

Hours of Community Service	3278
Total Number of Cases Processed	708
Number of Human Services Referrals	91
Referrals to HAMP (Hartford Area Mediation)	61



## MEDIATION SPECIALIST MICHAL AYALON

The Community Court in Hartford would like to introduce a recent addition to the Court's Mediation team, Michal Ayalon. Michal is a full-time mediation specialist with the Hartford Area Mediation Program (HAMP) who serves as a court liaison and case manager for cases referred by the Community Court.

Prior to joining HAMP, Michal served as interim director of multicultural affairs at SUNY Pottsdam in New York. To serve in that position, she was required to take a course in mediation, which sparked her interest in pursuing a career in the field. Moving to Connecticut, Michal worked for Central Connecticut State University prior to joining HAMP in July 2004.

"I find mediation to be very challenging and exciting," Michal said. "It is very different from my prior experience in academia because you are involved in the real world of people's lives when you perform a mediation session, rather than dealing only in theories and concepts."



Michal Ayalon

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT HOTLINE

756-7000

PLEASE CALL WITH YOUR PROJECT!

Email the court at:

[Hartford.Commcourt@jud.state.ct.us](mailto:Hartford.Commcourt@jud.state.ct.us)

## ATTENTION AGES 17-24

Tired of people nagging ?  
Ready to make a change ?



### LOOKING FOR WORK?

- ✓ Trying to get your life on track
- ✓ Ex-offender?
- ✓ Never worked?
- ✓ Gaps in work history
- ✓ Tired of failing
- ✓ Want to get your Diploma?

STRIVE/SAND offers a **FREE** four (4) week job-readiness training and job placement assistance program that will help you reach your goals.

**STRIVE/SAND**  
1200 Main Street  
(SAND Apartments)  
Hartford, CT 06120  
Phone: 860-278-8460 ext. 23  
Fax: 860-297-6074  
Ask for  
**Corendis Bonner**  
Outreach Coordinator

### AT STRIVE/SAND YOU'LL RECEIVE:

- Transportation Assistance
- Educational placement services
- Computer Literacy Training
- Interviewing Techniques
- Resume/Cover-letter

Orientation Starts on Friday 11/05/04 @ 9:45

## Credit Retrieval Program

Are You Between The Ages Of 16-21 & In Need Of Credits To Earn Your High School Diploma?

Are You Looking To Learn Job Readiness Skills?

### OPEN ENROLLMENT

#### Earn

Basic English Credit  
And/Or  
Basic Math Credit

#### Obtain

Job Readiness Skills

#### Location:

Adult Education North Campus Room 111  
2550 Main Street

Morning Schedule 8:30-11:30  
Afternoon Job Readiness Training

#### For more information contact

Brittany Strum: 695-7975, 547-1426 Ext. 7520  
Rosi Tate: 547-1426 Ext. 7418  
Mavis Chappell: 543-8845

## JOB READINESS FOR 17-TO-24 YEAR OLDS

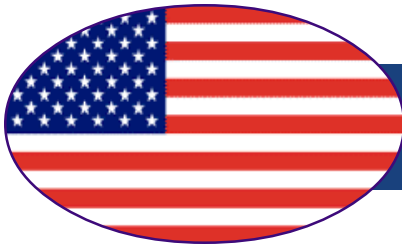
Obtaining meaningful employment is one of the major hurdles many Community Court defendants face, especially among younger offenders. Whether because of a shortage of job opportunities, a criminal record, or underdeveloped professional skills, the lack of employment is often a significant factor in a young person's involvement with the criminal justice system at the Community Court level.

In order to address this pressing issue, the Community Court has worked in partnership with the STRIVE/SAND program to connect defendants with a free training program that helps individuals overcome those specific obstacles. At the present time, the STRIVE/SAND program is reaching out to young people between the ages of 17 and 24 with a free job readiness training and job placement program that helps younger individuals develop the professional skills they need to succeed in a professional work environment. Program participants receive transportation assistance, educational placement services, computer literacy training, and develop interviewing techniques and a professional cover letter and resume.

STRIVE/SAND Outreach Coordinator Corendis Bonner works at the Community Court each Wednesday morning to meet with defendants who may benefit from the program. STRIVE/SAND is also open to individuals who are not involved with the criminal justice system and also has programs for older individuals. For more information on STRIVE/SAND programs, please call Corendis at 860-278-8460 ext. 23.

## NEED HELP FINISHING SCHOOL? START WITH CREDIT RETRIEVAL

As part of the effort to provide teens/young adults with job training, the SAND organization is also making efforts to help kids earn their high school diploma. SAND is currently looking to help 16 to 21 year olds get their diploma by earning credits for basic math and English and participating with the STRIVE program to learn job readiness skills. In order to facilitate the diploma process, program counselors will work to help participants retrieve any credits they previously earned during their schooling. For more information, please contact any of the counselors listed on the above flier.



Community Service



Community Pride



### Community Service Work Sites September 2004

- September 1 Mary Hooker School (Observation Park)
- September 2 Russ Street, Ebony Horse Ranch
- September 3 Wadsworth Street, Hudson Street
- September 7 Broad Street
- September 8 Capitol Avenue, Laurel Street
- September 9 Park Street
- September 10 FOODSHARE, Jefferson Street
- September 13 Colt Park
- September 14 Wethersfield Avenue, Colt Park
- September 15 Dutch Point
- September 16 Brookfield Street, New Britain Avenue
- September 17 FOODSHARE, West Boulevard
- September 20 Colt Park
- September 21 Collins Street, Ashley Street, Sergeant Street
- September 22 Madison Street, Broad Street
- September 23 Zion Street
- September 24 FOODSHARE
- September 27 STRIVE/SAND grounds
- September 28 Park Street
- September 29 Southend Hartford Police Sub-Station, Affleck Street, Lawrence Street, Babcock Street
- September 30 Nelton Court, Nelson Street, Acton Street, Barbour Street

COMMUNITY SERVICE PERFORMED AT  
EBONY HORSE WOMEN RANCH THROUGHOUT THE MONTH  
INFORMATION PROVIDED BY CHRIS MENA, CPA,  
COMMUNITY COURT COMMUNITY SERVICE TEAM

### SOME WOMEN'S EXPO VENDORS

See Page One for Story



STRIVE/SAND



CRT



Paul & Lisa, Inc.



Community Health Services

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

and visit the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch website at:

[www.jud.state.ct.us](http://www.jud.state.ct.us)