



State of Connecticut  
Judicial Branch  
Community Court  
Session  
At  
Hartford

80 Washington Street, Hartford, CT 06106

# September 2004 News & Updates

Produced by Chris Pleasanton, Vol. 6, Issue 9

## SUBURBAN SOCIAL SERVICES AT COMMUNITY COURT

Wednesdays have become the busiest day of the week for the Community Court, already among the busiest criminal courts in the State of Connecticut. This is because the Community Court handles most of the cases from its suburban jurisdiction on this day, in addition to its regular caseload from Hartford. Helping to handle these cases is Joe Kalache, A Licsnced Clinical Social Worker from the Town of West Hartford's Department of Social Services.

Each Wednesday, Joe joins the Court's social services team and personally assesses defendants with cases originating from West Hartford and Bloomfield (per agreement between those towns and the Court). On any given Wednesday, Joe will meet with upwards of twenty Community Court defendants. Based on their social needs, Joe will refer clients to their local town for services or help them connect with state-based programs.

"Social services ina court presents a good opportunity for early intervention," Joe said. "It allows me to educate these cleints about available resources within their communities to help them out and prevent future reoccurrences of this behavior."

"We are very grateful to West Hartford for providing Joe's services to the Community Court," Judge Jorge Simón said. "Joe does a great job connecting people with services and has been a tremendous asset to our social services team."



JOE KALACHE



### AUGUST 2004 COMMUNITY COURT STATISTICS

Hours of Community Service	3251
Total Number of Cases Processed	760
Number of Human Services Referrals	87
Referrals to HAMP (Hartford Area Mediation)	39



## RAISING STD AWARENESS AT COMMUNITY COURT

It is a generally accepted axiom within the legal profession that people involved in criminal cases are more susceptible to contacting and spreading sexually transmitted diseases due to their often risky patterns of behavior or impaired judgment through some form of substance abuse. In order to stem the tide of this problem, the Community Court in Hartford offers an educational component addressing the risks involved with these behaviors.

At the forefront of the Community Court's educational efforts to address STDs is Orlando Perez Rivera, an HIV/AIDS Prevention Counselor-Educator who works through the City of Hartford's Department of Health and Human Services under contract from Hartford's Hispanic Health Council. Orlando has worked with the Community Court since 1998, conducting the "John's" Health Education Class, designed to educate men arrested for patronizing prostitutes about the health risks associated with those actions. He also performs educational outreach by conducting occasional STD awareness sessions during the lunch hour for the Community Court's community service work crews.

"At least 50 percent of the men I talk with have no idea of the risks involved with patronizing a prostitute," Mr. Perez Rivera said. "However, many of the people involved in prostitution are having sex with numerous partners to feed a drug habit. Between the drugs and the multiple partners, the health risks are staggering."

"I think this program is helpful to the community," Mr. Perez Rivera continued. "The number of recidivists in my class is low, so I am hopeful they are changing their behaviors once they are educated on the risks of their behavior."



Orlando Perez Rivera

Edis Nieves-Cross supervises Mr. Perez Rivera's efforts at the Community Court for the City Department of Health and Human Services.

"I want to express my sincere gratitude for allowing us to work in partnership with the Community Court" Mrs. Nieves-Cross said. "As writer Jeffrey Lawrence Benjamin said; 'You cannot always choose what happens to you, but you can choose how you respond to what happens.' I think the program takes this approach with much success."

Email the court at:  
[Hartford.Commcourt@jud.state.ct.us](mailto:Hartford.Commcourt@jud.state.ct.us)

# REMINDER NOTICE !!!

## WOMEN'S EXPO TO BE HELD AT DMHAS

The second annual Women's Support Program Women's Expo "Celebrating Mutual Connections: Caring For One Another" is to be held on Friday, October 22, 2004. The expo will be held between 10:00 A.M. and 2 P.M. in the second floor auditorium of the DMHAS/Capitol Region Mental Health Center located at 500 Vine Street in Hartford. Representatives from many local social service agencies are expected to be available to share information on their programs and to answer questions from the public.

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 and GA14 Superior Court in Hartford.

One of the primary goals of the program is to connect these women with support services in our community to enhance their abilities at rebuilding their lives. The Women's Expo is designed to facilitate these connections by bringing together many service providers in the same place for the women to ask questions and learn about the programs in a neutral non-intimidating environment.

For more information or to reserve a (free) booth for your organization, please call the WSP Program Director Rocio Chang at (860) 297-0852.

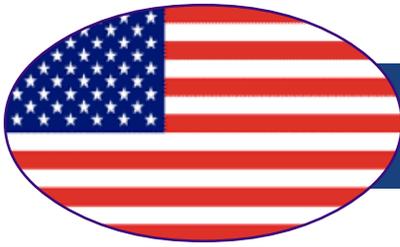
## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT HOTLINE 756-7000

## COMMUNITY COURT REPRESENTED AT CHICAGO CONFERENCE

As part of the growing interest in community courts, court officials from the Community Court in Hartford are often invited to speak at gatherings of judicial professionals across the country. Recently, the Honorable Jorge A. Simón and Assistant State's Attorney Glenn Kaas were invited to speak at such a conference before Illinois prosecutors and probation officials in Chicago on September 2, 2004.

Judge Simón and Mr. Kaas gave a presentation on the Community Court in Hartford and then participated in a panel discussion with other judges and court officials on the role of problem solving courts in the modern judicial system.

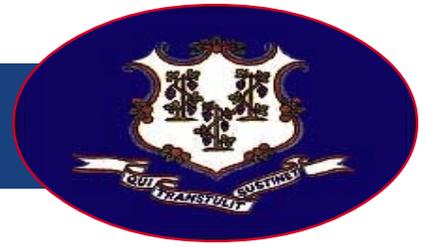
"We were very honored to be invited to Chicago for this conference," Judge Simón stated. "We learned a great deal talking with everyone from the Illinois judiciary, and I hope we were able to respond in kind by sharing our experiences in Hartford."



Community Service



Community Pride



### Community Service Work Sites August 2004

- August 2 Dutch Point, Seymour St., Stonington St.
- August 3 Wyllis St., Collins St., Townley St.
- August 4 Broad St., Capitol Ave.
- August 5 Russ St.
- August 6 FOODSHARE
- August 9 Colt Park
- August 10 Martin St., Center St.
- August 11 Shultas Pl., Anawan St., Benton St., Grafton St.
- August 12 Wethersfield Ave., Franklin Ave., Redding St.
- August 13 FOODSHARE, Asylum Ave.
- August 16 Hendricksen Ave., Curcombe St., Dutch Point
- August 17 Ward St., Brookfield St.
- August 18 Brookfield St.
- August 19 Ledger St., Bonner St., Westbrook St., Ellington St., Bannister St.
- August 20 FOODSHARE
- August 23 Dutch Point, Stonington St.
- August 24 Westbourne Parkway, Granby St.
- August 25 Newington Ave.
- August 26 Woodland St., Homestead Ave., Irving St., Magnolia St., Burton St.
- August 27 FOODSHARE
- August 30 Albany Ave., Westbourne Parkway
- August 31 Hungerford St., Willard St.

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

### Community Service Team



CHRIS MENA  
Program Manager



MANNY NEGRON  
Asst. Program Manager



CARMEN DIAZ,  
THAD DOUGLASS,  
& PAM LEE  
Community Service Field Supervisors

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**