



Community Service



Community Pride



Presiding Judge, Jorge A. Simón

# April 2005 News & Updates

Produced by Chris Pleasanton, Vol. 7, Issue 4

## Community Service Work Sites March 2005

March 1 & 2	various snow & ice removal
March 3	New Britain Ave., Webster St., King St., Ellsworth St., Washington St.
March 4	FOODSHARE
March 7	Nelton Court, Ebony Horse Barn
March 8	Capitol Ave., Windsor St.
March 9 & 10	various snow & ice removal
March 11	FOODSHARE
March 14	Zion St., Hillside Ave., Ebony Horse Barn
March 15	New Britain Ave., Washington St., Zion St., Hillside Ave.
March 16	Glendale Ave., Ward Pl., Wilson St., Zion St., Hillside Ave., Harbisson Ave., Bonner St., Arnold St., Catherine St., Allendale St., Flatbush Ave., Curtiss St., Hughes St., Sherbrooke Ave.
March 17	Homestead Ave., Westbourne Pkwy.,
March 18	FOODSHARE
March 21	Maple Ave., Broad St., Otis St., Preston St., Douglass St., Gilman St.
March 22	Nelton Court
March 23	West Preston St., Otis St., Gilman St., Maple Ave., Broad St.
March 24	Homestead Ave., Westbourne Pkwy., Ridgefield St.
March 28	Ebony Horse Barn
March 29	Washington St.
March 30	Grafton St., Broadview Terr., Flatbush Ave.
March 31	Reserve Rd.

## COURT HOSTS SHELTER DIRECTORS MEETING

The Community Court in Hartford was pleased to host the monthly meeting of Hartford-area shelter directors on April 7. The gathering, which is coordinated by Mark Hightower, Director of the McKinney Shelter, takes place at a different host site each month. It is an opportunity for the shelter directors, their staffs, local service agencies, and others to discuss the issues affecting the homeless and shelter populations in Hartford.

This month's featured speaker was John Sims, a Consumer Liaison with Advanced Behavioral Health, who specializes in connecting in-need persons with state services. Participants also got to meet members of the Community Court's social service team (which includes staff from the City of Hartford Department of Health and Human Services and the State Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services) and take a tour of the Court.

"It was great to have the local shelter staff see the Community Court and meet our staff," Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton said. "We work with a lot of the same clients as the shelters do, so by getting to know each other a little better, we may be able to better assist our mutual clients."



John Sims, Consumer Liaison - Advanced Behavioral Health, Mary Topa, Recruiter - STRIVE/SAND Job Training Program, Community Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton, Mark Hightower, Director- McKinney Shelter, and Shihan Ghazi, Clinical Case Worker - McKinney Shelter

## MIDTOWN COMMUNITY COURT VISITS HARTFORD

### Manhattan Court was first Community Court, Set example for Hartford

The Community Court in Hartford was honored to host a site visit by staff from the Midtown (Manhattan) Community Court and Center for Court Innovation on April 11. Led by Judge Eileen Koretz, the Midtown staff met with their Hartford counterparts, observed a court session, visited a community service work site, and participated in a luncheon discussion between the court. Connecticut's Chief Court Administrator, the Honorable Joseph Pellegrino, the Hartford Judicial District Administrative Judge Robert Beach, Hartford Police Chief Patrick Harnett and Assistant Police Chief Andrew Rosenzweig, and Jim Coviello of the Waterbury Community Court also participated in the visit.

Midtown was the very first community court and was the original inspiration for Hartford's court. The Center For Court Innovation are leaders in the problem solving court movement and have been a tremendous resource, not only for Hartford, but for each of the 27 community court's currently operating.



"It was an honor for us to be visited by Judge Koretz, Julius Lang, and the rest of the Midtown team," Judge Simón said. "We have learned a great deal from Midtown and the Center for Court Innovation through the years and are pleased to have had them visit."

**THREE COMMUNITY COURTS ON WADSWORTH STREET!**  
(L to r) Adam Mansky (Center for Court Innovation), Jim Hobbs, Justin Hakuta (Midtown), Jim Coviello (Waterbury Community Court), Judge Eileen Koretz, Annie Sykes-Moyer, Anthony Vargas, David Connolly, Courtenaye Jackson-Chase (Midtown), Manny Negron (Hartford), Angela Tolosa (Midtown), and Chris Pleasanton (Hartford) (Not pictured, photographer Julius Lang - Center for Court Innovation)

## MARCH 2005 COMMUNITY COURT STATISTICS

Hours of Community Service	2370
Total Number of Cases Processed	576
Number of Human Services Referrals	84
Referrals to HAMP (Mediation)	37

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)

## FORMER COMMUNITY COURT STAFF MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MARYLAND

The longtime staff of the Community Court was pleased to be visited recently by a former colleague, Gina Clay. Gina was visiting from Maryland, where she moved to study for her Master's Degree in Criminal Justice. Recently, Gina been appointed to serve as the Assistant Executive Director of the State of Maryland Commission on Corrections Standards. In her new job, Gina will conduct audits and investigations of Maryland's correctional facilities in an effort to maintain the highest standards for all aspects of the correction system.

As a Bail Commissioner for the Community Court from 1998 through 2001, Gina was involved in supervising many of the court's defendants and played a primary role in developing the court's supervision model for young offenders.

"It was a pleasure for all of us to see Gina again," Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton said. "We are excited for her new opportunity in Maryland and wish her all our best wishes for success."



Gina Clay

## FAREWELL TO MANNY NEGRON

The Community Court would like to wish a fond farewell to Manny Negrón who is leaving to become a Judicial Marshal after five years as Assistant Program Manager of the Community Service Team.

As part of his duties at the Community Court, Manny helped to oversee the Community Service Team, coordinate community service projects with local residents, and interact with staff and defendants to ensure the success of each project. He is highly regarded by the staff of the Community Court and will be greatly missed!

"Manny is an outstanding young man with a good head on his shoulders," Judge Simón said. "I am confident he will be successful in his career as a judicial marshal."



Manny Negrón

## COMMUNITY COURT EVALUATION RELEASED

As part of a federal grant awarded by the United States Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance in 1999, the Community Court in Hartford was required to undergo an independent evaluation measuring its overall effectiveness. That evaluation was conducted by the Justice Education Center (JEC) of West Hartford, selected in an open and competitive bid process.

JEC's evaluation examined the perspectives of the Community Court staff and its defendants, local police, government officials, and community members. JEC conducted both individual interviews and focus group discussions to get a measure of the participant's understanding of the Court, its impact in the community, the personal interaction each had with the Court, and their recommendations. The JEC also presented Hartford's demographic data for consideration in determining the Court's effectiveness.

"The evaluation provided a good road map from which the Judicial Branch worked to enhance services at the Hartford Community Court," Judge Joseph H. Pellegrino, Chief Court Administrator for the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, said.

"The evaluation of the community court provided a unique opportunity for the Justice Education Center to gather information about the inner workings of the court from a variety of groups and individuals, including court personnel, police, defendants, community residents and groups" Sherry Haller, JEC Executive Director said, "The true measure of the effectiveness of a community court is the impact of the court on enhancing public safety and improving the quality of life in Hartford. In this regard, there is no question that the court received high marks for its ongoing commitment ."

"The evaluation was conducted in 2002 and focuses on the Community Court's early years," Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton said, "It's a thorough snapshot in time of what the Community Court was. Since that time we have utilized many of the recommendations of the evaluation to improve the level of services at the Court while staying true to our original mission to provide a meaningful judicial response to quality of life violations."

The evaluation, which is over 120 pages, is available on the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch's website by utilizing the following link:

<http://www.jud.state.ct.us/external/super/spsess.htm#CommunityCourt>

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT HOTLINE 756-7000 PLEASE CALL WITH YOUR PROJECT!