

Community Service



Community Pride



State of Connecticut  
Judicial Branch  
Community Court  
Session  
At  
Hartford

Presiding Judge, Jorge A. Simón

# February 2005 News & Updates

Produced by Chris Pleasanton, Vol. 7, Issue 2

## Community Service Work Sites January 2005

- January 3 Nelton Court
- January 4 Mahoney Village, Main Street, Vine Street, Albany Avenue, Imlay Street
- January 5 Main & North Main Street, Albany Avenue
- January 6 Ebony Horse Barn
- January 7 FOODSHARE
- January 10 Colt Park, Stonington Street
- January 11 East & West Morningside Streets, Palm Street, Burlington Street, Granby Street, Franklin Avenue, Benton Street, Bond Street, Pawtucket Street, Barker Street
- January 12 Ice removal from handicapped walk ways
- January 13 Franklin Avenue, George Street, Maple Avenue, Roosevelt Street, South Street, Shultas Place, Ebony Horse Barn
- January 14 FOODSHARE
- January 17 North Main Street, Cleveland Avenue
- January 18 Flatbush Avenue, Grafton Street, Oliver Street, Vernon Street
- January 19 Charter Oak Avenue, Ebony Horse Barn
- January 20 FOODSHARE, Russ Street
- January 24 Maple Avenue, Bond Street, Broad Street, Whitmore & Pawtucket Streets, Allen Place
- January 25 Hillside Avenue
- January 26 Winship Street
- January 27 Ebony Horse Barn
- January 28 FOODSHARE
- January 31 Orange Street, Newton Street, Chadwick Street, Amity Street, S. Whitney Street

## HPD CADETS VISIT COMMUNITY COURT

The Community Court in Hartford was pleased to host a visit by several Hartford Police cadets who are learning community policing concepts under the supervision of Sgt. Emory Hightower of the Hartford Police Academy. The cadets will become recruits at the Hartford Police Academy upon turning twenty-one years of age and look forward to serving as Hartford Police officers in the future.

The cadets visited with Judge Simón and Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton to learn about the Community Court process and then observed a Court session.

"It was nice to visit with these young people who want to serve their community," Judge Simón said. "I was very impressed with their maturity, their thoughtful questions, and their commitment to helping others."



HPD Cadets Rudy Daniels, Denise Mendoza, Sgt. Emory Hightower, and Errycka White

## THE MOST SUCCESSFUL WOMEN'S HOLISTIC HEALTH SESSION TO DATE

Among Community Court defendants with the most complex social needs are persons accused with the crime of prostitution. In addition to their legal matters, persons involved in prostitution are often struggling with a combination of significant substance abuse, physical and mental illness, post traumatic stress disorder, and a lack of safe housing and other resources.

With those obstacles in mind, the Community Court is pleased to announce that the February 2005 Women's Holistic Health Program class was the most successful session to date, graduating all five of the participants who started the program - the first time 100% of the participants have graduated. Designed as a way to introduce women to a way out of prostitution, the Women's Holistic Health Program consists of two weeks of classes focusing on physical and mental health, overcoming triggers to destructive behavior, developing and implementing plans to successfully lead healthy lives, and reconnecting with available services. The women participating in the program also are required to perform court-supervised community service and comply with random drug testing.

The program, conducted on-site at the Community Court, is facilitated by Diana Desnoyers of Paul & Lisa, Inc., national leaders in helping sexually exploited women and children. Diana is assisted by her Paul & Lisa colleague Denise Holloman, Yanira Rodriguez and Lynn Bryant of the City of Hartford's Department of Health and Human Services, and Kaye White of ProjectAIDS Hartford (not pictured).



WHH PROGRAM FACILITATORS  
Lynn Bryant, Diana Desnoyers,  
Yanira Rodriguez, and Denise Holloman

"The Court is very proud of the five women who graduated from the February Women's Holistic Health Program," Judge Simón said. "The women showed up for each class, they worked hard, and they stayed drug free. I am very impressed with their success and wish them well as they begin their lives anew."

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)

## JANUARY 2005 COMMUNITY COURT STATISTICS

Hours of Community Service	2545
Total Number of Cases Processed	452
Number of Human Services Referrals	88
Referrals to HAMP (Mediation)	37

## COMMUNITY COURT BIDS A FOND FAREWELL TO JUDICIAL MARSHAL GORDON BLANCHETTE...

The Community Court in Hartford would like to bid a fond farewell to Judicial Marshal Gordon "Gordy" Blanchette who is retiring at the end of February 2005 after 18-and-a-half years as a special deputy sheriff and judicial marshal, including over six years of service at the Community and Housing Courts at 80 Washington Street.

Prior to his service in the courts, Gordy served in the United States Marine Corps from 1953 to 1977 seeing duty in Korea and Vietnam. After retiring from the service, Gordy worked for the Town of East Hartford before becoming a sheriff.

"Gordy is a good Marshal who has spent his life serving others and his country, but more importantly, he is a good friend to many of us at 80 Washington Street," Judge Simón said. "We will miss him and wish him an enjoyable and well-deserved retirement."



Gordon "Gordy" Blanchette

## ...AND ALSO BIDS A FOND FAREWELL TO MEDIATION SPECIALIST DOUG HANSEN...

The Community Court in Hartford would also like to bid a fond farewell to Mediation Specialist Doug Hansen, who is leaving to pursue mediation opportunities in Europe. Doug has worked at the Community Court through the Hartford Area Mediation Program since October 2002. As a Mediation Specialist, Doug was responsible for working with disputing parties referred by the Court to lay the foundation for mediation sessions, reporting case updates to the Court, and making arrangements for restitution in case with property damage. In many other cases, Doug was able to bring the disagreeing parties together through his own efforts.

"Doug is an outstanding young man who cares a great deal for the people he works with," Judge Simón said. "His hard work and caring attitude will serve him well in his efforts to promote greater understanding through mediation. We will miss him and wish him well."



Doug Hansen

**For more information on the Hartford Area Mediation Program, please contact Program Manager Erini Osaris at 860-280-1184**

## MANCHESTER HIGH STUDENTS PERFORM JOB SHADOWING AT COMMUNITY COURT

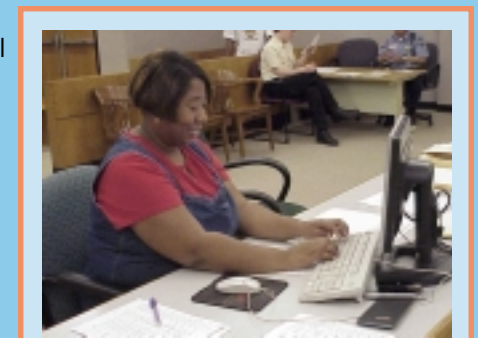
The Community Court was pleased to host several students from Manchester High School who performed "job shadowing" with several members of Community Court staff. The students, many of whom are interested in careers in the legal and law enforcement professions, spent the morning working side by side with Judge Simón, Public Defender Ray Cuatto, Assistant State's Attorney Glenn Kaas, and Yanira Rodriguez of the Social Services Team to learn about the various aspects of the court's inner operations.

"We enjoyed the job shadowing visit by the Manchester students," Judge Simón said. "They asked some great questions and seemed to enjoy their visit."

## ...AND WELCOMES JOYCE WILLIAMS TO ITS CLERK'S OFFICE

The Community Court would like to officially welcome Joyce Williams to its ranks. Joyce is joining the Community Court as a Data Terminal Operator in our Clerk's Office after working for the Housing Court Clerk's Office for four years. In addition to her regular data entry duties in the Clerk's Office, Joyce will be responsible for entering the Judge's release conditions on the Community Court's internal database as he issues them in the courtroom; a job she performed part-time in addition to her Housing duties.

"We are very pleased to have Joyce join our Clerk's team," said Gloria Milner, Supervising Clerk of the Community Court. "She is highly professional in her abilities and is a very enjoyable person to work with."



Joyce Williams at work in the courtroom

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