



Community Service



Community Pride



Presiding Judge, Jorge A. Simón

May 2005 News & Updates

Produced by Chris Pleasanton, Vol. 7, Issue 5

Community Service Work Sites April 2005

- April 1 FOODSHARE
- April 4 Nelton Court, Ebony Horse Barn
- April 5 Russ Street
- April 6 Albany Avenue, Blue Hills Avenue
- April 7 Hungerford Street, Ebony Horse Barn
- April 8 FOODSHARE
- April 11 Broad Street, Wadsworth Street, Russ Street, Ebony Horse Barn
- April 12 Fairmont Street, Green Street, Brook Street
- April 13 Ward Street, Zion Street
- April 14 Westbourne Parkway, Mahoney Village, Russ Street, Washington Street, Murphy Road
- April 15 FOODSHARE, Park Street, Wadsworth Street, Wethersfield Avenue, Anawan Street
- April 18 Maple Avenue, Russ Street, Ebony Horse Barn
- April 19 Main Street, Maple Avenue
- April 20 Homestead Street
- April 21 Park Terrace, Putnam Street, Putnam Heights, Edward Street, Myrtle Street, Ebony Horse Barn
- April 22 FOODSHARE, Norwich Street, Buckingham Street
- April 25 FOODSHARE, Chapelle Garden
- April 26 Chapelle Garden
- April 27 Garden Street
- April 28 Garden Street
- April 29 FOODSHARE, Westbrook Street

RED HOOK COMMUNITY JUSTICE FEATURED ON PBS

One of the Community Court in Hartford's sister courts, the Red Hook Community Justice Center of Brooklyn, New York is to be featured in a PBS documentary. "Red Hook: A Legal Revolution Grows in Brooklyn". The documentary is scheduled to air Tuesday, May 24, at 10 pm on Public Broadcasting System (PBS) channels.

This one-hour documentary tells the story of the first year of operations at the Red Hook Community Justice Center, a community-based court that seeks to address crime and disorder in an isolated, low-income Brooklyn neighborhood. The film, which was independently produced by Meema Spadola and Sugar Pictures, offers a look at the early successes and challenges faced by the Justice Center. It also offers testimony to the dedication of the judges, attorneys, court officers, social workers and others at the Justice Center.

For more information about the Red Hook Community Justice Center, please feel free visit the Center for Court Innovation website at:

http://www.courtinnovation.org/demo_09rhjc.html

HAMP'S ERINI ORSARIS EARNS LIBERTY BELL AWARD Mediation Work Results In Prestigious Hartford County Bar Association Award

Each year, the Hartford County Bar Association celebrates national Law Day by recognizing individuals who contribute to improving the quality of the practice of law in Connecticut. One of the most prestigious Law Day awards is the Liberty Bell Award, which is presented to a lay person (non-attorney) who contributes to a better understanding of law within the community. This year's Liberty Bell recipient is Erini Orsaris, Program Manager of the Hartford Area Mediation Program (HAMP), a division of Community Partner's in Action (CPA). She was presented with the award by Judge Jorge A. Simón, Presiding Judge of the Community Court Session in Hartford, during Law Day ceremonies presided over by Hartford's Administrative Judge Robert E. Beach, Jr.

Erini first started with HAMP as an intern in 1996. After becoming formally trained in the art of mediation, she worked in CPA's youth program. She also served as a probation officer in Florida. Upon returning to Connecticut, Erini reconnected with HAMP and was officially named Program Manager in June 2004. She oversees all aspects of the mediation program, from supervising staff and volunteers, to serving as court liaison, to actively managing cases. She has also worked to expand the use of mediation in local schools as a tool to prevent violence.

HAMP handles, on average, 71 new cases per month from GA 14 and the Community Court and successfully resolves 65% of those cases.

"I have had the pleasure of working with Erini for two years," Judge Simón said. "She is a great role model for all young women to emulate and a very worthy recipient of the Liberty Bell Award."



Erini Orsaris and Judge Simón

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

APRIL 2005 COMMUNITY COURT STATISTICS

Hours of Community Service	
Total Number of Cases Processed	501
Number of Human Services Referrals	109
Referrals to HAMP (Mediation)	56

HARTFORD POLICE ACADEMY VISITS THE COURT

The Community Court in Hartford was pleased to host a visit by the current class of recruits in the Hartford Police Academy. Led by their instructor, Hartford Police Sargeant Emory Hightower, the recruits met with Judge Simón, Assistant State's Attorney Glenn Kaas, and Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton to learn about how the Community Court operates and enhance their understanding of their role as police officers in the community and the importance addressing quality-of-life offenses. The recruits also observed a session of the Community Court and met afterward for a question and answer session with the court officials.

Upon graduation, many of the recruits will become police officers in Hartford and other surrounding communities.

"We are pleased to have the Hartford Police Academy and its recruits take an active interest in the Community Court and community policing concepts," Judge Simón said. "We were impressed by both their conduct and the insightfulness of their questions."

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT HOTLINE

756-7000

PLEASE CALL WITH YOUR PROJECT!

HTLA STUDENTS VISIT COMMUNITY COURT

Community Court Participates in School's Anti-Violence Program

Students from the Hartford Transitional Learning Academy (HTLA) visited the Community Court on May 2nd as part of the school's anti-violence week program. Many of the HTLA students were able to view a session of the Community Court and meet with some of the court's staff, including Judge Simón and Public Defender Ray Cuatto, to learn about how the court works and ask questions about the legal process.

"It was a pleasure to have the HTLA students visit and hope that it was an educational and informative for them to learn about how this court works," Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton said.

KENDY ROSSI JOINS MEDIATION TEAM



Kendy Rossi

The Community Court in Hartford is pleased to welcome a new associate to its ranks, with the arrival of Kendy Rossi to the Hartford Area Mediation Program (HAMP). Kendy joined HAMP on May 2nd and is currently working at the Community Court and the GA14 Superior Court as a mediation specialist. As part of her duties, Kendy works with disputing parties in cases referred by the court for mediation. She meets with the defendants to make an initial assessment of the case, conducts mediation sessions, performs follow-up and reports case status to the court.

"I want to help people find other ways to resolve their conflicts through the use of mediation," Ms. Rossi said. "Plus, when mediation is successful, it relieves the burden of the courts."

Prior to joining HAMP, Kendy lived in Seattle, Washington, where she worked as a teacher and a mediator for nine years with a focus on community-based and family mediation.

"We are happy to have Kendy join the Community Court team," Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton said. "Her professional experience and commitment to mediation will help the court in serving the needs of the Greater-Hartford area."

For more information on the Hartford Area Mediation Program, please call Program Manager Erini Orsaris at 860-280-1184

The Community Court Session in Hartford evaluation conducted by the Justice Education Center is available for viewing on-line at:

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