

Holding individuals accountable for their actions and providing services to those in need help to fulfill Hartford Community Court's pledge for restorative justice. Hartford Community Court is recognized as a gateway to services and fully understands the importance of law enforcement and the Courts with social services to maximize the impact of community based programs and resources.



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#### Mission Statement

**Community Partners in Action** is a non-profit agency which focuses on behavioral change for its participants by Changing perceptions, Providing opportunities, and Advocating for reform for people affected by the Criminal Justice System

This project is supported with funding awarded by the Connecticut Judicial Department's Court Support Services Division (CSSD). Points of view or opinions contained within this document are those of CPA and **do not** necessarily represent the official position or policies of CSSD.

## Reflections by Former Defendants

*.... When I first attended community service, I thought it was going to be a lot different then it was. The staff was very friendly –at the end of the day –I actually felt good about performing Community Service. . .*

*.....I have learned my actions that day (pulling a false fire alarm) affected a lot of people in the wrong way. If my actions are going to affect other people, I want it to be good actions, good affects, good reasons.*

*.....Performing Community Service was a learning experience. I saw a lot of people who were hungry and homeless and it made me feel really guilty. Its something we all know about-but we don't talk about. We should all do things like community service that help other people.*

*.....First and foremost, I would like to thank the Court for allowing me to do Community Service . I know my potential for success is endless; and having a record only creates a glass ceiling that would keep me from reaching my goals in life.*

*.....I apologize for my actions. Nobody is perfect but we should aim for perfection.*

*.....Drinking alcohol can cause your life to change drastically and most of the time its for the worse.. I want to inform others on alcohol, its effects, and why underage drinking is wrong.*

*.....I sincerely regret my decision making. It's been a learning experience for me that I don't want to go through again. Next time I will think more rationally before making a decision that will jeopardize my freedom or life. Thank you for giving me a second chance at life.*

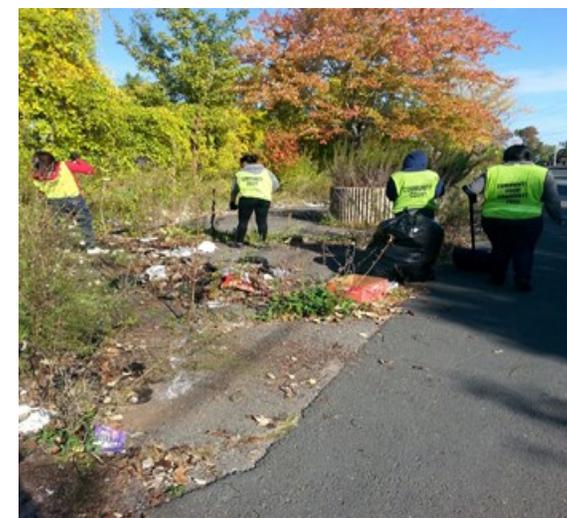
*.....The next time I attend a concert, I will not drink alcohol because I am underage. I have done everything the Court told me to do and I am thankful my mistake won't affect my future.*

*.....I have learned from my mistake and I am thankful Hartford Community Court allowed me to perform community service. I have learned to make smarter choices because of this.*



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**Community Service Program**  
Hartford Community Court  
80 Washington Street, Hartford, CT 06106



## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Upon being charged by the Police for quality of life violations such as Interfering, Trespassing, Breach of Peace, Disorderly Conduct, Public Drinking, low-level Larceny and Town Ordinances such as...Loitering, Littering, Public Urination...Offenders are required to give back to the neighborhoods in which their quality of life offenses occurred by providing case specific community service projects.

Community Partners in Action, Inc. (CPA) staff oversees Community Service and works closely with Hartford Community Court staff, and the Human Services team to ensure that defendants requiring support benefit from the many life-sustaining services available at Hartford Community Court.

One or more days of community service under supervision of staff is the sanction imposed on most defendants who come before the Hartford Community Court. Defendants must successfully complete community service in addition to any other Court-imposed sanctions prior to disposition of their case.

Hartford Community Court allows for an innovative approach by holding defendants accountable by paying back the neighborhood, increasing citizen involvement, and providing social services opportunities. Hartford Community Court is viewed as one of the gateways for needy defendants to be connected to community-based resources.

It is important for people to understand that there will be an immediate and meaningful judicial response for quality-of-life crimes that contribute significantly to the deterioration of our neighborhoods.



Preparing Thanksgiving food baskets



Community service assignments entail cleanup of trash and debris from streets, and perimeters of public parks. Community Service staff collaborate with community-based organizations, neighborhood revitalization zones, government, municipal and social service agencies to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

*"People who commit quality of life crimes should be brought before the court quickly so it can provide both an immediate accountability, and a social service opportunity."*<sup>1</sup>

### *Ebony Horsewomen, Inc.*

Hartford Community Court continues to enjoy a great partnership with Ebony Horsewomen, Inc. who expose young people from Hartford and surrounding towns to both an educational and therapeutic environment. The Ebony Horsewomen, Inc., is a nonprofit group founded in 1984, to involve young people in innovative equestrian program to empower them to become productive citizens and to deter undesirable behavior.



### *Graffiti Removal*

Defendants engage in the removal of illegal graffiti at various sites throughout Hartford. These sites are identified by a wide variety of community members including residents, merchants, organizations, places of worship and schools. Knox Parks Foundation coordinates all official graffiti clean up efforts for the City of Hartford. Community service crews have assisted in many of the graffiti removal efforts. Whenever possible, individuals charged with producing graffiti are responsible for cleaning it. Community Service staff is committed to join forces with Knox and other interested parties to quickly clean-up graffiti reported to the City of Hartford on its 311 Hotline.



<sup>1</sup>Judge Raymond R. Norko

## Foodshare

Foodshare gathers food from restaurants, grocery stores and private donations for distribution to the hungry. Since 1999, Community Service work crews have assisted Foodshare in unloading food trucks, carrying food items into distribution centers, preparing food for distribution at various sites, as well as packaging and handing out Holiday food baskets.



## Community Gardens

While building community spirit, community gardens provide opportunities to educate the public about agriculture and investing in the environment. People become self-sufficient and physically engaged in



producing their own food which is an important step in community investment. Proceeds from both 100% organic gardens will be donated to local food shelters and Veterans. Tomatoes, Squash, Broccoli, Scallions, Cabbage, Collard Greens, Romaine Lettuce, Peppers, Carrots, and Kale are harvested annually.

## Addressing Food and Clothing Insecurities

