

State of Connecticut
Judicial Branch
Community Court
Session
At Hartford

SPRING 2009
News & Updates

Produced by Chris Pleasanton, Vol. 11, Issue 2

COMMUNITY COURT IN HARTFORD NAMED NATIONAL MENTOR COURT

US Department of Justice and Center For Court Innovation Honor Hartford

The Community Court in Hartford was recently honored to be selected as one of three mentor court sites by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance. As a member of the "Community Court Mentor Site Network", the Community Court in Hartford will serve as a role model to other jurisdictions seeking effective ways to combat such crimes as prostitution, public drinking and drug use, vandalism and other low-level crimes that affect the quality of life in city neighborhoods.

"We know that what we have in Hartford makes a difference in the lives of the people who live and work in the city," Chief Court Administrator Barbara M. Quinn said. "So it is a tremendous honor to be chosen as a positive example of what can happen when courts, municipal officials, merchants, and community organizations put their heads together. To have effective solutions, we need effective partnerships, and that's what occurred here."

The non-profit Center for Court Innovation will oversee the Community Court Mentor Site Network, which also includes community courts from Dallas and Seattle.

"The mentor courts will serve as a peer network, supporting the Center for Court Innovation in advancing the community court model," said Kim Norris, a senior policy advisor for adjudication at the Bureau of Justice Assistance. "By selecting high-quality programs in various parts of the U.S., we hope to make it easier for interested jurisdictions to make site visits and see a community court at work."

2009 COMMUNITY COURT IN HARTFORD TEAM



COMMUNITY COURT STATISTICS

WINTER - SPRING 2009	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
Total Arraignments	652	710	935	1032
Community Service Hours	2016	1362	1530	2046
Social Services Referrals	146	241	223	531
Referrals to Mediation	59	80	78	67
Appearance Rate	92%	92%	92%	90%
Suburban Caseload	20%	20%	16%	15%

STAFF NOTES



Dan Franceschi

The Community Court would like to welcome Judicial Marshal Dan Franceschi to the team at 80 Washington Street. Dan has been a Judicial Marshal for close to one year and is a graduate of the Judicial Branch's Marshal Academy. Prior to joining the Marshals, Dan served in the U.S. Army for six years during which he was deployed in Germany. Dan and his wife Tiffany are the proud parents of their two-year-old son, Gabriel.

"Dan has done a fine job here at the Community Court," Judge Norko said. "He sets a friendly yet businesslike tone which helps to maintain order during court proceedings."



Bill Faber

It is with a touch of sadness but a larger sense of gratitude that the Community Court would like to wish Judicial Marshal Bill Faber well in his well-deserved retirement. Bill has served as a Marshal and Sheriff for over twenty-five years. Bill was also a teacher and administrator in Glastonbury for thirty years. Bill was also a recent recipient of the State of Connecticut Secretary of State's Public Service Award for his military service in WWII (A detailed story on this award is featured in this newsletter).

"It has only been two days since Bill retired, but we already miss him," Chris Pleasanton said. "Bill is held in the highest regard by just about everyone who worked with him and we will never forget him or his contributions to the success of the Community Court."



Denise Holloman

Congratulations to Paul and Lisa's Denise Holloman who was recently promoted by her agency to the position of Supervisor of the Women's Holistic Health Education Project. Denise has worked with the Community Court for over four years as a facilitator in the Prostitution Protocol Program.

"Denise works with one of the most challenging populations to come before this court," Judge Norko said. "Her hard work, expertise, and caring approach has resulted in dozens of women turning their back on prostitution and reestablishing themselves in healthy and productive life-styles."

118 EXCESSIVE NOISE CASES HEARD AT COMMUNITY COURT IN APRIL

Police have recently stepped up enforcement of excessive noise violations in the Hartford area which has resulted in the Community Court handling 118 such cases for the month of April 2009. Most of the violations originated from stereos being played at high volumes in motor vehicles. In Hartford, police can cite a person for excessive noise if the noise from their vehicle can be heard over 100 feet away, the standard distance between two telephone poles in the city. Defendants who agree to resolve their excessive noise case at the Community Court are usually required to perform one day of court-supervised community service and also receive a stern lecture from Judge Norko about keeping the volume down.

“When Chris Pleasanton and I attend community meetings, the number one citizen complaint has always been excessive noise,” Judge Norko said. “People who blare their car stereos at all hours are disturbing dozens of people at once. It’s against the law and if a person comes before the Community Court for a noise charge, we will take it very seriously.”



WOMEN’S HOLISTIC HEALTH PROGRAM WELCOMES NEW ASSISTANT FACILITATOR

Another new addition to the Community Court team is Brett Neider who works for Paul and Lisa, Inc. Brett joins senior facilitator Denise Holloman as an assistant in the Prostitution Protocol program. Brett will be assisting Denise in teaching the intensive two-weeks of classes and working one-on-one with several of the participants.

Prior to joining Paul & Lisa, Inc., Brett attended Utica College where she earned a degree in Communications. Upon graduation, Brett paid her own way to South Africa to serve as a volunteer who worked with children afflicted with HIV or AIDS.

Welcome, Brett!



Brett Neider

HEALTH SERVICES

The Community Court in Hartford is proud to serve as a forum in which people can obtain services in order to better their lives. Over the past year, the Community Court has worked with the City of Hartford's Department of Health and Human Services and Community Health Services, Inc. to provide access to medical care on-site by conducting regular visits by outreach staff from their medical teams. Visitors to the court have been able to be checked for their blood pressure, blood sugar, and std's among other services at no cost to themselves or the court. Due to the overwhelming participation, both agencies plan to continue their visits to the Community Court on a regular basis.

CHS CONDUCTS INFORMATIONAL HEALTH FAIR AT COMMUNITY COURT

The Community Court in Hartford grateful to Community Health Services for conducting a free informational health fair at the court on March 10, 2009. CHS Representatives George Dillon and Pat Miles met with over 30 court visitors interested in seeking medical treatment at CHS. CHS also provided free health care items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste and bandages.

"CHS is one of the most outstanding institutions in Hartford and I have absolutely no reservations about referring someone to CHS for help," Judge Norko said. "They have a wide array of services, a terrific facility, and a highly-qualified staff who we are absolutely honored to be working with."



CHS representatives Pat Miles and George Dillon at the Community Court

CITY OF HARTFORD HEALTH VAN SERVICES AT COMMUNITY COURT



City of Hartford Health Van Team Rosa Velazquez, Carol Steinke, and Beth Mertz at the Community Court

The April 7th visit to the Community Court by the City of Hartford's Health Van team was one of the most successful to date! Over 25 people took advantage of free services ranging from blood pressure and blood sugar level testing to std tests. In a fortunate turn of events, one visitor to the court who was feeling ill met with the Health Van team, who were able to assess that the person had a serious medical condition and assisted that person in getting an ambulance to the hospital. It was found they were suffering from a serious chest infection that if left untreated could be dangerous. After a brief hospitalization, that person reported to the court that they were on the road to a full recovery.

Thank you to the City of Hartford Health Van Team for your efforts on behalf of Community Court clients!

STUDENT VISITS

HARTFORD HIGH PEER MEDIATORS VISIT COMMUNITY COURT

On March 16th, the Community Court in Hartford was visited by Peer Mediators from Hartford High School led by their advisor Aida Lopez. The students observed a court session and met with Judge Norko for a question and answer session. Their visit was arranged by Erini Orsaris of the Hartford Area Mediation Program

“Mediation is one of the most important tools available to the Community Court and is likely to grow in use both in the justice system and the private sector,” Judge Norko said. “It is encouraging to see students developing these skills which will serve them well as they go through life.”

(Right) The Hartford High Peer Mediation students with teacher Aida Lopez, Judge Norko and Kendi Rossi of HAMP.



NCCC CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDENTS VISIT COMMUNITY COURT

The Community Court in Hartford was pleased to host the ninth annual visit by Professor Barry D’Onofrio’s Criminal Justice Students from the Northwestern Connecticut Community College. This year, 18 students met with Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton who talked with the students about how the community court process works. They then watched nearly 50 cases in a session of the court. Afterwards, the students got to sit with Judge Norko in a question and answer session.

“We are always pleased to host the NCCC students,” Mr. Pleasanton said. “Professor D’Onofrio has the students well-prepared for their visit and they tend to ask us a lot of great questions after seeing the court in action.”

NEW HAVEN 8TH GRADERS VISIT COMMUNITY & SUPREME COURT

The Community Court in Hartford was pleased to host a visit by nearly 40 8th graders and teachers from the Benjamin Jepsen School in New haven. The students met with Judge Norko, Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton, and Supervising Judicial Marshal Nick Winn and then watched several cases. Afterwards, the students visited the State Supreme Court and were given a tour by Jim Senich of the Judicial Branch Office of External Affairs.

CPA PRISON ART PROGRAM WORK ON DISPLAY AT COMMUNITY COURT

The Community Court in Hartford is pleased to announce the installation of a new display of art from the Community Partner's In Action Prison Art Program. The display will be formally opened on in the near future however; the art is currently available for viewing in the courthouse lobby during normal business hours Monday to Friday 8AM to 5 PM.

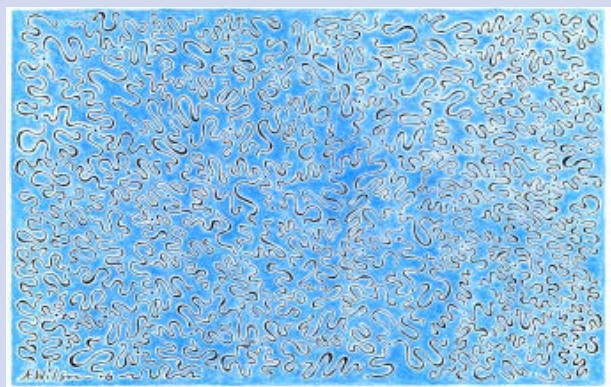
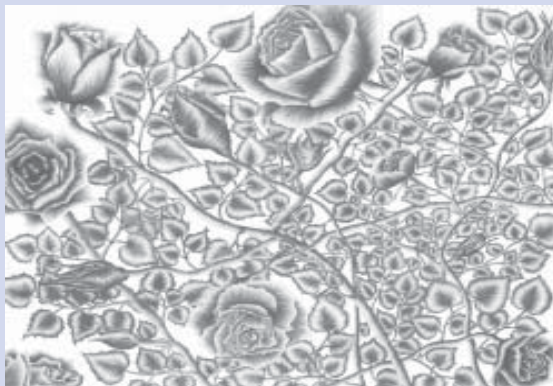
The Prison Arts Program was initiated in 1978 as a collaboration between the Connecticut Department of Correction and Community Partners in Action (formerly the CT Prison Association). Art is – and always has been – one of the most prevalent activities in any prison system. The Arts Program takes advantage of this fact by encouraging artists to look beyond the traditional portraiture, tattoo patterns, copying or generic landscapes that are so common to the prison environment. Artists are asked to create work that only exists because they exist – artwork which is unique, emotive, thoughtful and thought provoking. The results are often extraordinary.

On the most basic level, the program operates under the belief that the arts are an integral tool in aiding inmates in using their sentenced time constructively. Artistic endeavors provoke inmates to develop their self-discipline, self-esteem, work ethic, interpersonal and communication skills and their ability to think critically while they examine their lives and the actions that led to their incarceration. Exhibitions and publications are the culmination of the program's work each year organizing and providing arts workshops and projects within the State's prison system. As well, these exhibitions and publications provide the general public with a unique window into an important, but often unseen, part of the community.

Each year, the program – through purchase and donation – adds new artworks to a “Permanent Collection.” These works are chosen not only for their unique qualities, but also to provide a wide view of all of the artwork created in the prisons and the Arts Program. Artwork from this collection framed, and becomes part of traveling exhibitions throughout the region and the country. A rotating selection of artwork from the collection will be featured at the Hartford Community Court throughout 2009-2010.

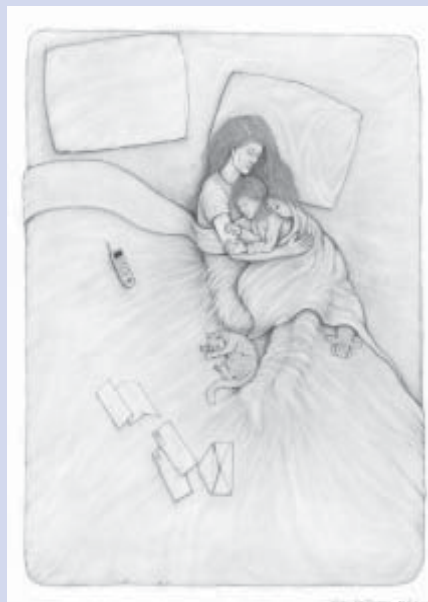
“CPA's Prison Art Program is one of the more productive programs a prisoner can participate in,” Judge Norko said. “It teaches discipline, self-awareness, and control; skills which are important to their long-term success in life.”

If you are interested in more information or would like to donate art supplies please contact the program: Community Partners in Action Prison Arts Program 110 Bartholomew Avenue, Suite 3010 Hartford, CT 06106 cpaprisonarts@earthlink.net or 860-722-9450



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CPA PRISON ART PROGRAM



Artwork and artist (counterclockwise from left) "Weary Thoughts" by Brian Bellmare, "Reaching" by Matthew Abraham, "Choices Start When We Are Young" by Constance Griffin, "Waiting For Tomorrow" by John Lech, "Caught In A Web of Violence" by Carlos Gutterre, "Check Mate" by Robert DeAngelo, "In One Ear and Out The Other" by Lamar Little (Previous page) "Op Art Blue Sky" by Andrew Wilson, Watch Each Other Grow" by Norma Claudio,

COMMUNITY COURT INTERNS AND VOLUNTEERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Ruben Castillo

The Community Court in Hartford was pleased to host several student interns and volunteers during the Spring 2009 school semester. The students came from schools including UConn and several local high schools and worked with many different departments at the Community Court.

“Our current interns have been among the best of the dozens we have hosted throughout the years,” Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton said. “They each brought tremendous work ethics and a diverse set of skills to the Community Court.”

This year’s interns and volunteers include:

Hartford resident Ruben Castillo is a college senior with the UConn Urban Studies Program. He has worked with the Community Court’s Social Services Team under the guidance of City of Hartford Health and Human Services staffer Yanira Rodriguez. Ruben plans to work in the social services field upon graduation.



Katie Nickerson

Katie Nickerson is also a senior from UConn. She worked closely with Public Defender Ray Cuatto but also helped out in the social services department and with Chris Pleasanton.

The next two students have worked closely with Yanira after school in the social services department.

Manny Morales is a student at Hartford Public High School’s Law and Government Academy. After graduation, he plans to attend college then pursue a career in politics.



Manny Morales

Lorena Herrera, a recent emigree from Venezuela, is also from Hartford High’s Law and Government Academy.

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INTERNS AND VOLUNTEERS

Felecia Minnifield is a student at the University of Hartford. She is in their paralegal program.

Last, but certainly not least, is Kayla Vega, who is a student at East Catholic High School. Kayla was introduced to the Court by Hartford Police Community Service Officer Alex Estrella, who knew Kayla to be a good kid in his neighborhood who worked hard and school. Kayla has worked with both Chris Pleasanton and Yanira Rodriguez helping both with innumerable office projects.

“We try to offer the students and volunteers an opportunity to enhance their professional skills in a unique environment,” Chris Pleasanton said. “In return, these students have helped us provide a higher level of service to the community and have helped us do our jobs in countless ways.”

THANK YOU!!! to Ruben, Katie, Manny, Lorena, Felecia, and Kayla!!

***For more information
on the Judicial Branch
Volunteer and Intern Programs
please visit the Judicial Branch
website at
www.jud.ct.gov
and look under opportunities
or,
please call (860) 282-6581***



Lorena Herrera



Felicia Minnifield



Kayla Vega

MARSHAL FABER RECOGNIZED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE'S PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Congratulations to Judicial Marshal Bill Faber who was recognized by Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz with a Public Service Award honoring his unwavering courage and exemplary military service to our country during World War II. Marshal Faber was recognized along side other veterans at the Secretary of State's Public Service Awards Ceremony for World War II veterans from the Town of Glastonbury on April 15, 2009.

Marshal Faber served in the Army Air Corps from 1942 through 1946, flying on missions over Egypt, Burma, and China.

"Bill Faber is one of the most selfless and humble men I have ever met," Judge Norko said. "He has impacted thousands of people in over six decades of public service and richly deserves this recognition."

In addition to his military service in WWII, Marshal Faber was also a teacher and school administrator in Glastonbury for over 30 years. Upon retiring from education, he has continued to serve as a Sheriff and then Judicial Marshal for the past twenty-five years.

Congratulations, Bill. More importantly, THANK YOU!



Bill Faber

COMMUNITY COURT CONTACT INFO

Please feel free to email the court at:

Hartford.Commcourt@jud.ct.gov

and visit the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch website at:

www.jud.ct.gov

Winter - Spring 2009 COMMUNITY SERVICE

**WORK
SITES**

JANUARY

1/2/2009 FOODSHARE Mobile Unit, Van Dyke Ave., Wawarme Ave. 1/5/2009 CHARTER OAK HEALTH CENTER, FOODSHARE, Brooks St., Zion St. 1/6/2009 Ebony Horse Women, Westbourne Parkway, Adelaide St., Ward St. 1/7/2009 FOODSHARE, Bond St., Brook St., Campfield Ave. 1/8/2009 FOODSHARE, Westland St., Elliot St. 1/9/2009 FOODSHARE Mobile Unit, Homestead Ave., Ebony Horse Women 1/12/2009 FOODSHARE, Westbourne Parkway, Granby St., Vine St. 1/13/2009 Ebony Horse Women, Sherbrooke Ave., Garden St., Westland St., Pliny St. 1/14/2009 FOODSHARE, Broad St., Elliot St., Lincoln St., Ward St. 1/15/2009 FOODSHARE, Ebony Horse Women, Eat & West Preston St., Maple Ave. 1/16/2009 FOODSHARE Mobile Unit, Lawrence St., Brown St., Zion St. 1/19/2009 FOODSHARE, Fairfield Ave., Summit St., New Britain Ave. 1/20/2009 Ebony Horse Women, Putnam St., Park Terrace, Russ St. 1/21/2009 FOODSHARE, Saybrook St., Sherbrooke Ave., Chandler St. 1/22/2009 FOODSHARE, Ebony Horse Women 1/23/2009 FOODSHARE Mobile Unit 1/27/2009 Westbourne Parkway, Orange St., Granby St., Ebony Horse Women 1/28/2009 FOODSHARE, Vine St., Garden St., Sterling St., Edgewood St. 1/29/2009 FOODSHARE, Lincoln St., Carpenter St., Collins St. Sisson Ave. 1/30/2009 FOODSHARE Mobile Unit, Huysshoppe Ave.

FEBRUARY

2/2/2009 FOODSHARE Mobile Unit & Regional Market, CHARTER OAK HEALTH CENTER, Brooks St., Standish St. 2/3/2009 Ebony Horse Women, Adelaide St., Homestead Ave., Sterling St. 2/4/2009 FOODSHARE, Ebony Horse Women, Benton St., Vine St. 2/5/2009 FOODSHARE Mobile Unit, Preston St., Barker St. 2/9/2009 FOODSHARE, Ebony Horse Women, Zion St., Elliot St. 2/10/2009 Ebony Horse Women, Broad St., Chandler St., Barnard St. 2/11/2009 FOODSHARE, Ebony Horse Women, Homestead Ave., Sisson Ave. 2/12/2009 FOODSHARE, Ebony Horse Women, S. Marshall St. 2/13/2009 FOODSHARE Mobile Unit, Fairfield Ave. 2/17/2009 Ebony Horse Women, Enfield St., Mather St., Irving St. 2/18/2009 FOODSHARE, Edgewood St., all Hartford underpasses (Capitol Ave., Hamilton St., Windsor St., Adrien's Landing) 2/19/2009 Nelton Court, Oakland Terrace, Adams St. 2/20/2009 FOODSHARE Mobile Unit, Huysshoppe Ave. 2/23/2009 FOODSHARE, Ebony Horse Women, Homestead Ave. 2/24/2009 Mather St., Sherbrooke Ave., Fairmont St., Nelson St. 2/25/2009 FOODSHARE, Ebony Horse Women, Grafton St., Brown St. 2/26/2009 FOODSHARE, Bethel St., Martin St. 2/27/2009 FOODSHARE Mobile Unit, Irving St., Adelaide St.

MARCH

3/2/2009 CHARTER OAK HEALTH CENTER, Nelton Court, Washington St. 3/3/2009 Ebony Horse Women, Hebron St., Capen St., Westland St., Irving St. 3/4/2009 FOODSHARE, Albany Ave., Magnolia St., Deerfield St. 3/5/2009 FOODSHARE, WARD ST. POLICE SUBSTATION, Garden St., Martin St. 3/6/2009 FOODSHARE Mobile Unit, Ebony Horse Women, Shultas Place 3/9/2009 FOODSHARE, Ebony Horse Women 3/10/2009 S. Marshall St., Bethel St., Mather St., Huysshoppe Ave. 3/11/2009 FOODSHARE, Ebony Horse Women, Ridgefield St., Adams St., Wilson St. 3/12/2009 FOODSHARE, Westland St., Lawrence St., Ward St. 3/13/2009 FOODSHARE Mobile Unit, Martin St., Oakland Terrace 3/16/2009 FOODSHARE, Ebony Horse Women 3/17/2009 Airport Rd., Ledyard St., Locust St., Brainard Rd. 3/18/2009 FOODSHARE, Ebony Horse Women 3/19/2009 FOODSHARE, Ebony Horse Women 3/20/2009 FOODSHARE Mobile Unit, Brookfield St. 3/23/2009 FOODSHARE, Bedford St., Vine St., Edgewood St., Greenfield St. 3/24/2009 Boce Barlow Parkway, West Service Rd. (DPW), Mark Twain Dr. (DPW), Brook St., Russ St. 3/25/2009 FOODSHARE, Ebony Horse Women, Putnam Heights, Broad St., Mountford St. 3/26/2009 FOODSHARE, Maple Ave., Zion St., Ward St., Lawrence St. 3/27/2009 FOODSHARE Mobile Unit, Ebony Horse Women, Park Terrace 3/30/2009 FOODSHARE, Ebony Horse Women, Loomis St., Mahl Ave., Cone St., Whitney St. 3/31/2009 FOODSHARE, Ebony Horse Women, Orange St., Arbor St., Chandler St., Sigourney Park Square

APRIL

4/1/2009 FOODSHARE, Ebony Horse Women, Charter Oak Ave., Vernon St., Affleck St. 4/2/2009 FOODSHARE, Ebony Horse Women, Van Block Ave., Van Dyke Ave., Wawarme St. 4/3/2009 FOODSHARE Mobile Unit, Ebony Horse Women, Summit St., Ward St. 4/6/2009 FOODSHARE, Ebony Horse Women, Bedford St., underpasses (Capitol Ave., Windsor St.) 4/7/2009 Kent St., Garden St., Cleveland St., Edgewood St. 4/8/2009 FOODSHARE, Magnolia St., W. Preston St., Sanford St., Sigourney St., Sigourney St. Park 4/9/2009 FOODSHARE, Sherbrooke Ave., Grafton St., Pliny St. 4/13/2009 FOODSHARE, Ebony Horse Women, Woodland St., Russ St. 4/14/2009 Ebony Horse Women, Albany Ave., Westbourne Parkway, Sterling St., Pliny St., Mark Twain Dr. 4/15/2009 FOODSHARE, Ebony Horse Women, Pope Park Highway, Judson St., Martin St. 4/16/2009 FOODSHARE, Ebony Horse Women, Fairmont St., Mahl Ave., Williams St. 4/17/2009 FOODSHARE Mobile Unit, West Service Rd. 4/20/2009 FOODSHARE, Ebony Horse Women, Windsor St. 4/21/2009 FOODSHARE Mobile Unit, Capen St. 4/22/2009 FOODSHARE, Ebony Horse Women, Russ St., Ward St., Martin St., Fairmont St. 4/23/2009 Holcomb St., Vine St., Westland St., Ellington St., Wilson St. 4/24/2009 FOODSHARE Mobile Unit, Ebony Horse Women, Pope Park Highway 4/27/2009 FOODSHARE, CHARTER OAK HEALTH CLINIC, Ebony Horse Women, Bethel St., Ellington St. 4/28/2009 Jubilee House - Clifford St., Mather St., Garden St., Russ St. 4/29/2009 FOODSHARE, Ebony Horse Women, Hazel St., Wellington St., Sherbrooke Ave. 4/30/2009 FOODSHARE, Oakland Terrace, Edgewood St., Shultas Place

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PLEASE CALL WITH YOUR PROJECT**

STATE OF CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH

COMMUNITY COURT SESSION IN HARTFORD

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SPRING 2009 NEWSLETTER

IN THIS EDITION...

Community Court Named a Mentor Court by BJA, Excessive Noise, CPA Prison Art Program Display, Bill Faber, Interns, Health Fairs, Student Visits, Staff Notes, Statistics, & More....

State of Connecticut Superior Court
Community Court Session in Hartford
80 Washington Street
Hartford, CT 06106

