

# A SECOND CHANCE FOR CHANGE



**Community Partners in Action** is present and active at the local, state and national level, bringing our voice to the discussions around second chances for people with a record.

"Connecticut is embracing a Second Chance Society where we don't permanently punish [all] offenders, swelling our prisons and creating lifetime criminals out of people who made a mistake."

"We are focused on turning former offenders into productive members of our society that can contribute to our economy, rather than drain it. Ultimately, this will make our communities safer, and will make for a brighter tomorrow in Connecticut." Gov. Dannel Malloy on the Second Chance Society\*

\*Synopsis from various articles, press releases and speeches.

**Annual Report  
2015**



## CPA: FORGING NEW DIRECTIONS TO PROVIDE SECOND CHANCES



The STARR T2W2 Collaborative Leadership Team with representatives from the US Department of Labor.

What CPA has to say, and what we demonstrate through our work helps to inform the second chance agenda in Connecticut. CPA is forging new directions in policies and practices to lower recidivism and improve public safety.

### The following are examples of innovation, quality and advocacy:

#### Innovation

Since January 2015, **57 returning citizens in CPA's STARR Training to Work 2**, all who were formerly incarcerated, **have earned nationally recognized certifications** in one of five in-demand careers offered through the program: Masonry, Construction, Green Industries, Medical Coding, Culinary Arts and Safety.

**CPA's Community Service Program** at Hartford Community Court continues to break new ground with its **Washington Street Urban Garden project**. Located in eye's view of the State Capitol, the project gives people mandated to community service a way to pay back their debt while helping those in need. This year, participants built the garden and grew over 500 lbs. of vegetables that were donated to area food banks.

#### Quality

**The BRAVE and SOAR Community Residential Programs for Boys** earned their first accreditation from the American Correctional Association (ACA). **GROWTH (formerly Washington St.) and SAGE Secure Community Residential Programs for Girls and Boys** just earned their second reaccreditation from ACA.

**The Hartford Transitional House and the BRAVE, SOAR, GROWTH Secure and SAGE Secure Community Residential Programs for Boys and Girls** all earned full compliance with their PREA Audit.

**The Hartford and Waterbury Alternative in the Community Programs** earned a Level One rating for data quality, in both accuracy and timeliness for CSSD's data management system.

#### Advocacy

**Maureen Price-Boreland, Executive Director** was named Chair of the *Returning Citizens Working Group* for Hartford Mayor-Elect, Luke Bronin. The group will be looking at strategies to address reentry in Hartford.

**Doreen Thompson, Program Operations Director**, is Co-Chair for the Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance (CJJA) Steering Committee. CJJA recently issued a report on "Juvenile Prisons: National Consensus and Alternatives".

**Deborah Rogala, Program Operations Director, Opal Ellison, Program Manager and Resettlement Program client, Victoria Steele**, were panelists at the 16<sup>th</sup> Bi-Annual Adult and Juvenile Female Offenders Conference.

### THANK YOU, DONORS AND FUNDERS!

We want to thank our individual donors, the Golf Tournament Committee, supporters and players and the Resettlement Halloween Brunch supporters. Along with those highlighted in the Annual Report, a special thanks to the following public funders, foundations, charitable funds, businesses and organizations that gave to CPA in 2014-2015.

A.I. Prince Technical High School  
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CT Judicial Branch - Court Support Services Division  
CT Judicial Marshal Services  
CT Office of Policy and Management  
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Manchester Recycling & Materials  
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North Haven Congregational Church  
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Pond House Café  
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St. James School, Manchester  
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South Congregational Church-East Hartford  
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US Department of Labor  
U.S. Trust for Aaron and Simon Hollander Foundations  
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#### **GORDON S. BATES SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

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Doreen Thompson (203) 893-4106

#### **PROGRAMS**

- **Alternative in the Community Programs (AICs)**  
**Hartford AIC/Hartford Transitional Housing - Washington St** - Hartford, CT (860) 525-6691  
**Hartford AIC at Windsor Street** - Hartford, CT (860) 244-3672  
**Manchester AIC** - Manchester, CT (860) 649-8338  
**Waterbury AIC/Waterbury Transitional House** Waterbury, CT (203) 597-6540
- **Juvenile Residential Programs**  
**BRAVE Community Residential Program for Boys** - Hamden, CT (203) 508-1780  
**SOAR Community Residential Program for Boys** -Hamden, CT (203) 508-1781  
**SAGE Secure Community Residential Program for Boys** - Hamden, CT (203) 848-1238  
**GROWTH Secure Community Residential Program for Girls (Formerly Washington St.)**  
Hartford, CT (860) 244-0700
- **Community Court Program-Community Service** - Hartford, CT (860) 756-7035/7960
- **Prison Arts Program** - Hartford, CT (860) 722-9450
- **Resettlement Program for Women and Men** - Hartford, CT (860) 522-7400
- **STARR Training To Work 2 Program** - Hartford, CT (860) 973-2761
- **Work Release Program** - Hartford, CT (860) 543-8929

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# CONNECTICUT'S SECOND CHANCE SOCIETY

Despite the perceptions, many people with a record who have paid their debt to society come out with a strong desire to improve their lives. They respond well when given the tools, resources and opportunity to make a change. Connecticut's Second Chance Society is a bold and smart step in the right direction. CPA's work to assist people with making their second chance a successful one is very much aligned with this important initiative by the State.

## A Chance to Break Down Career Barriers

Joel, one of STARR T2W2's participants, graduating from the I-BEST Program



One of the five career training tracks in CPA's STARR Training to Work 2 Program (T2W2) is I-BEST, a nationally recognized, integrated education and training program.

I-BEST offers basic education towards completing a GED while a person earns several national certifications required in the Construction field. I-BEST is offered to people in the Hartford Area Work Release Programs through our partnership with the Capitol Region Education Council and Capital Workforce Partners.

## A Chance to Learn By Doing



A greenhouse built with math: The square of the hypotenuse ( $c^2$ ) = the sum of the square of the two sides ( $a^2 + b^2$ ).

The boys in CPA's BRAVE and SOAR Community Residential Programs experienced hands on how math concepts are used in everyday life and future careers.

CPA's in-program education partner, Innovation in Education, taught the students how to build the foundation and walls for a greenhouse that will extend the growing season of the on-site garden. They applied Pythagoras' Theorem and other geometry principles to build a sound and sturdy structure.

The boys also spent many hours clearing brush, weeding, raking and mulching the grounds.

## A Chance to Change Perceptions Through Art

Former Prison Arts Program artist James Taylor and his daughter at the Stafford Springs exhibition, with several of the artworks he sent her during his 16 years in prison.



CPA's Prison Arts Program's month-long "Prison Comes to Stafford Springs" Exhibition featured 674 artworks exhibited in seven businesses along the town's Main Street. The exhibition was a unique partnering with the arts, social services and businesses that moved many who came to the exhibition. "This show is inspiring," said Ken Anderson, one of the visitors. "You can see how the artists are trying to turn their lives around. I'm surprised by the level of technical expertise and delighted by the expression in all of it."\*\*

\*\*Quote from "Prison Art Comes to Main Street", Hartford Courant, Oct. 16, 2015

## A Chance to Address Basic Needs

L-R: CPA's Deb Rogala with Outreach Community Chair Wanda Williams McCormack, CPA's Opal Ellison and Director of Discipleship Rev. Mia Douglas.



At CPA's 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Resettlement Halloween Brunch and Auction, Asylum Hill Congregational Church of Hartford was honored. For more than a decade, the church's generosity has made it possible for hundreds of women to receive a hand with addressing their basic needs when they needed it the most. Many others have also assisted our participants:

**Housing and Basic Needs Funding:** CSSD, DOC, US Department of Labor, E. Laird and Anne Mortimer Fund (through the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving), McPhee Foundation, Cottonwood Foundation and the Watkinson Prisoners Aid Society.

**Housing and Basic Needs In-kind Donations:** Best Cleaners, One Coat Connecticut, Dress for Success, The Hartford, Bob's Furniture, Foodshare, Guilford Congregational Church, St. Dunstan Church, Marlborough Congregational Church, Faith Congregational Church, and many individual donors.

# CPA's 2015 PROGRAM OF THE YEAR: Prison Arts Program

The Prison Arts Program is the agency's oldest existing program, and has consistently encouraged and fostered opportunities for artistic expression in Connecticut's correctional facilities for over 37 years. Through rigorous artistic endeavors, inmate's lives and their environment are positively and constructively changed. This positive change not only affects inmates, but their families, prison staff and the community as a whole.



Former program artists Ross VonWeingarten (l) and Frederick Gunn (r) with CPA's Jeff Greene.

A huge Annual Show, an "alumni" show "Out of Prison Making Art," and over a dozen regional and national exhibitions featuring work from the *Permanent Collection* bring the amazing work of the Prison Arts Program to over 30,000 viewers each year. Publications featuring art and writing, as well as health and behavior education posters and booklets, reach thousands of people in prisons and schools as well.

Upon release, many former Program artists continue to make art and often work with the CPA, volunteering to assist in the Prison Arts Program's work.

Jeffrey Greene has been with the program for twenty-four years and his passion and dedication as the sole staff for the program are remarkable.

It is a privilege to name the **Prison Arts Program "CPA Program of the Year"**.

## CPA 2015: Year At Glance

- **8,233** adults and youth participated in 16 programs.
- **3,107** people were helped with housing and basic needs.
- **281** adults lived in CPA transitional housing from a few weeks up to two years.
- **283** adults completed a substance abuse education program.
- **293** participants completed employability and/or career training.
- **196** participants found employment.
- **31,250** viewed artworks from the Prison Arts Program.
- **5,666** people performed 44,009 hours of community service
- **622** youth with school issues reengaged in their education.
- **202** youth enrichment & leadership activities provided.