



## Request for Proposal – 150<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Celebration

### About Community Partners in Action

Community Partners in Action (CPA) was founded nearly 150 years ago to advance criminal justice reform and preserve the dignity of those interacting with the system. As a human services nonprofit we are dedicated to the rehabilitation of and advocacy for adults and youth in the criminal justice system throughout Connecticut. CPA operates youth residential treatment programs, community-based alternative programs, transitional housing, work release, prison arts and reentry services. Locations include Hartford, Waterbury, Hamden, and Manchester.

The **mission** of CPA is to build community by providing services that promote accountability, dignity and restoration for people affected by the criminal justice system. Our **vision** is to have a constructive impact on criminal justice reform in Connecticut that ends racial inequities and ensures the humanity and dignity of those interacting with the justice system.

At the heart of our work is the guiding belief that “People Can Change.” It is a principle that has guided the work of CPA throughout its long and storied history.

***A historical narrative including key milestones in the history of Community Partners in Action is incorporated at the end of this document, including the history of The Connecticut Prison Association and Community Partners in Action, as it has been known since 1997.***

### Registration to Submit RFP

If you are interested in responding to this RFP, please register by email to Lisa Maraia, Chief Financial Officer, at [lmaraia@cpa-ct.org](mailto:lmaraia@cpa-ct.org) by **Friday, May 19th**, at 4:00 p.m. Please include your company name and the names, titles, and email addresses for those that should be included with any correspondence related to this RFP.

**Questions:** All questions regarding this RFP must be sent in writing to Lisa Maraia, Chief Financial Officer, at [lmaraia@cpa-ct.org](mailto:lmaraia@cpa-ct.org) by **Friday, June 2nd**. **Telephone calls will not be accepted.**

**Proposal Submission:** The RFP must be submitted in a sealed package marked “RFP Enclosed-150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration” with all required RFP submission documents on or before **Friday, June 23rd**,

at 1 p.m., to Community Partners in Action, Inc., 110 Bartholomew Avenue, Suite 3010, Hartford, CT 06106. Emailed bids sent to [Imaraia@cpa-ct.org](mailto:Imaraia@cpa-ct.org) will be accepted if they are received by the deadline.

### **Anniversary Year Goals**

The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year is an opportunity for Community Partners in Action to expand brand recognition, strengthen relationships with our current donors, funders and community partners and illustrate the positive impact of CPA throughout Connecticut communities.

**Primary Audiences:** 1. Employees, CPA Board, 2. Donors, 3. Funders

**Secondary Audiences:** 4. Legislators, Community Leaders (nonprofit, faith-based), 5. Participants

### **Scope of Work**

1. Looking for a creative thought partner to develop a 150th Anniversary campaign. Specifically:
  - Ideas, including an overall theme for the anniversary year that expands CPA's reputation as a leading human services provider and criminal justice advocate.
  - A range of ideas is expected that will include publicity, video, and paid advertising. CPA's current social media presence includes Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Our website is <https://www.cpa-ct.org>.
  - Ideas should engage and/or include staff, board, current and prospective donors, and participants of CPA's services.
2. Working collaboratively with CPA Anniversary Committee, design and implement a 150<sup>th</sup>-anniversary fundraising event in December 2025, including finding a location in central Connecticut, handling all aspects of event A/V production and logistics, and event materials that build on the theme created for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. CPA is handling the sourcing of a big-name keynote speaker connected to criminal justice.
  - Attendance goal: 300 – 400 people, including staff, donors, partners, and program participants.

The above ideas and activities will complement and build on CPA's existing marketing communications & development programming throughout 2025. This includes a Prison Arts Program Annual Show (Spring), a mid-year CPA fundraiser, a fall reentry fundraiser, and an annual calendar of marketing communications.

### **Proposal Requirements**

Please provide 5 – 10 pages, including the following:

- Firm overview and experience working with nonprofit organizations, familiarity with the criminal justice field preferred but not required. Include three examples of work that is similar in scope to this one.
- Project scope and approach for tackling this initiative, including the proposed milestones, input conversations and anticipated staff involvement. CPA's Anniversary Committee is comprised of a cross-section of staff as well as the Executive Director and Board members.

- Staff profiles with bios for people who will work directly on this project, including their role, work experience, years working with your firm as a staff or contractor, and education.
- Three References on the attached References Sheet, including name, organization, role, email, and phone for similar projects. References should not be current or former employees or Board Members of CPA.
- Project Budget: The project estimate should not exceed \$95,000, including agency time and paid media/out-of-pocket costs. Please provide a budget breakdown for your agency's services, including creative services, PR, media buying, and production costs. Budget does not include the cost of the venue or catering.

**Evaluation and Selection**

As a state-funded contractor, CPA is required to consider competitive pricing as part of the evaluation criteria. We will also consider numerous factors in your proposal, including:

- The thoroughness of your proposal addressing all required sections in addition to information you deem essential to the scope of this initiative.
- Range of creative samples and depth of experience with similar projects.
- Commitment level and ability to complete within CPA's established timeframes\*
- Financial stability.
- Feedback from references.

Prior to being awarded this project, you may be invited to attend a project scope review meeting and to address other items as needed.

\*CPA Interim Deadlines:

- RFP Submission by Friday, June 23 – start work Summer 2023.
- By January 2024 – Event venue selected.
- Present plan overview, including publicity and fundraising ideas, to the Anniversary Committee by May 2024.
- Final Plan signed off by the CPA Anniversary Committee in October 2024.
- Kick off anniversary year celebrations at the Annual Meeting in early December 2024 and run a publicity campaign through December 2025, picking up momentum as the year progresses.

**Insurance**

Any agency Community Partners in Action hires is required to carry business insurance, including professional liability coverage. An insurance certificate listing Community Partners in Action as an additional insured with the following requirements will be required within ten (10) business days from the date of the notice of award.

- A. Worker's Compensation      Connecticut Statutory Coverage required.
- B. Automobile Insurance      \$1,000,000.00 where applicable.

C. General Liability	\$1,000,000.00
D. Umbrella	\$2,000,000.00
E. Professional Liability	\$1,000,000.00

The required certificate of insurance shall also include a statement that CPA shall be notified ten (10) days in advance of any policy amendment, revocation, cancellation, non-renewal or material change in coverage.

**Rejection of Proposals**

CPA reserves the right to reject any Proposal received under this RFP if (1) the Agency bidding cannot meet the scope of work or other objective criteria, (2) the bid price exceeds the amount of money available for the project, or (3) CPA determines that the project shall not go forward.

**References Sheet**

List three (3) references that reflect projects for which similar work to that specified herein were successfully completed. Community Partners in Action Board Members and CPA Staff cannot be references:

1. Company name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of completion of work: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Brief description of work: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Company name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of completion of work: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Brief description of work: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Company name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of completion of work: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Brief description of work: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## RFP Quote Sheet

You are required to provide a quote below, which should not exceed \$95,000 for agency time and paid media/out-of-pocket costs combined. Please quote the project as described in the Scope of Work, including a breakdown of services, including creative services, PR, video production, and media buying, in addition to paid media/out-of-pocket costs.

Item	Description	Total Cost of Project
1a	Please provide a breakdown of services, including the hourly rate for each area:  <i>Creative Services</i>  <i>PR</i>  <i>Media Buying</i>  <i>In-house Video or Print Production</i>	\$ _____  \$ _____  \$ _____  \$ _____
1b	Out-of-pocket – anticipated paid media (please include assumptions such as type of media and identify any agency commission rate)  Out-of-pocket video or print production (please include assumptions such as # videos, style, and length)	\$ _____  \$ _____
2	-Event Planning – sourcing a venue, project coordination. Does not include cost of the speaker or catering.  -Coordinate event logistics, including A/V.  -Creation of materials (program book, branded giveaways). Does not include OOP costs.	\$ _____  \$ _____  \$ _____
3	Any items not included above (please list and quote separately):  _____  _____  _____	\$ _____  \$ _____  \$ _____

## RFP Addendums

Please acknowledge below receipt of any Addendums, if any, that are released as part of this quote process. Include the date that it was received.

Addendum (1) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Addendum (2) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Addendum (3) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bidder:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Community Partners in Action: Historical Narrative**

Our story is wrapped into the history of Connecticut's criminal justice reform as the pendulum has swung back and forth between a system of punishment/retribution and one of rehabilitation.

As a human services nonprofit organization, Community Partners in Action is grounded in rehabilitative ideals, believing that people can change for the better and deserve a second chance. We advocate for participants in our programs to have the right to work; the right to an adequate standard of living including food, clothing and housing; the right to physical and mental health services.

Our work includes reentry services, alternatives to incarceration, a prison arts program, community service supervision and residential supervision of youth and adults who are under community supervision. Our direct service model is amplified through advocacy, and an extensive network of partners who are committed to the overall welfare and dignity of those in our care, and the community at large.

As you'll read from our history below, the Connecticut Prison Association gave way to Community Partners in Action in 1997, to show an increased focus on the integration of formerly incarcerated people as part of the community, and dropping the word "prison", which conjured more negative than positive associations.

In 1997 Maureen Knight Price (now Maureen Price-Boreland) was promoted to become the first black, first female and first non-clergy to head the Connecticut Prison Association. It was at the Annual Meeting in 1997 that the Board approved the name Community Partners in Action and the Connecticut Prison Association name was dissolved.

In 1998, the CPA Chair, Judge Raymond R. Norko, set another precedent for the agency and the judiciary. He researched, designed and established Connecticut's first community court. Hartford Community Court, in its first year, siphoned off over 6,500 cases of lesser offenses to allow judges to focus on more serious crimes. Community Court also allowed participants to "give something back" to help restore some of the damage they had made to the community.

This signaled a commitment to restorative justice, the idea that the purpose of justice is to repair the effects of crime.

There was another leadership change in December 2018, when Beth Hines was promoted from interim Chief Operations Officer to Executive Director of Community Partners in Action. Beth has been with CPA for 32 years, moving up the ranks from the first position she held as a job developer and thirteen years as a Program Operations Director.

Read more about recent CPA happenings at [news and events](#).

### **Prison Reform in Connecticut**

In Connecticut, jails were formed after 1650 and they were unregulated and hidden from public view. They housed people convicted of less serious crimes and turnover was frequent. Old Newgate Prison opened in 1773 where people were confined underground in terrible conditions and subjected to harsh punishments. Incarceration by itself was not yet considered a sufficient penalty. After the Revolution, conditions in the mineshaft worsened and the state closed it for good in 1827.



The role of religion and criminal justice reform are closely linked with theologians like Nathaniel Taylor and Horace Bushnell, using biblical references to demonstrate the capacity of the individual to change and evolve. Human choice and free will made restoration a possibility. Churches endeavored to model a response to crime that hoped to save and restore every soul.

Connecticut was determined to show the world that its prisons were not inhumane warehouses but productive places of reform. The Auburn model was adopted at the new State Prison in Wethersfield which opened in October 1829. The prison was modeled after the Auburn State Prison in New York, which was noted for its methods of control that included requiring those incarcerated to march in lockstep, forbidden from talking, and expected to work to support the prison.

Protestant liberals joined the National Prison Association to promote a more systematic rehabilitation of people with a criminal background. It wasn't until the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century that prison reform was on the upswing with the 1870 NPA meeting in Cincinnati acting as a rallying cry for more States to adopt a more civilized prison management system.

It was after the National Prison Association meeting that reform in Connecticut began to pick up speed. The National Prison Association was renamed the American Correctional Association (ACA) in 1954. This marked a shift toward the rehabilitative ideal, acknowledging that people were capable of change. The American Correctional Association is a private, non-profit, non-governmental trade association and accrediting body for the corrections industry, the oldest and largest such association in the world.

Between 1985 – 1997 the number of people in Connecticut prisons rose from 5,790 to 14,100 and the correctional budget increased from \$92.5MM to \$417 MM.

### **Perspectives from Criminal Justice Authors**

“Most Americans only come to ‘know’ about the people cycling in and out of prisons through fictional police drama, music videos, gangsta rap, and ‘true’ accounts of ghetto experience on the evening news. These racialized narratives tend to confirm and reinforce the prevailing public consensus that we need not care about ‘those people’; they deserve what they get.” *Michelle Alexander, The New Jim Crow*

“Once you are in the criminal justice system, you can never get out. The label sticks with you. It hampers getting a job, a driver’s license, access to health care, housing, food stamps, among many other roadblocks. And it’s not just the person in prison; the whole family is punished forever.” *Susan Quinlan, executive director of Families in Crisis.*

## CPA History Timeline

### 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> Century

Year	What Happened	Source*
1773-1827	<p>Old Newgate Prison opened in a copper mine and closed in 1827 after abhorrent conditions made it politically and morally unsustainable.</p> <p>Newgate Prison opens on the site of an abandoned copper mine. Considered a major humanitarian step forward because imprisonment was to be substituted for all capital offenses except homicide.</p>	P.55-57
1829	Wethersfield State Prison opens on Oct. 1; conditions were “minimally humane” but better than the stories of the Newgate “dungeon”. The 20’ high walls minimized escapes and ensured total visual/auditory seclusion from the outside world. By 1875 Wethersfield State Prison was an example of a progressive prison with a regimen both strict and humane.	p.25 P.29 P.71
1870	The National Congress on Penitentiary and Reformatory Discipline made up of more than a dozen voluntary prison aid associations met in Cincinnati, with the goal of forming the National Prison Association.	p.27
1870-1880	Then Ohio Governor, former U.S. President <u>Rutherford B. Hayes</u> served as the organization's first president. Hayes "missed no opportunity to speak with well-informed sincerity about more effective and more humane ways of dealing with offenders". He remained president until his death ten years later.	p.1, p.77 p.1, p.77
1871	CT legislature formed a Prison Reform Commission, appointing Dr. G.W. Russell and Charles Dudley Warner, publisher of the Hartford Daily Courant for Hartford and Judge Francis Wayland to represent New Haven. CT’s governor established a State Board of Charities to visit each Connecticut Prison to determine if people were being treated humanely.	P.30
1875	A new “private agency” designed by judges and clergy, backed by the governor and welcomed by the warden of Wethersfield Prison was taking shape. Organizers met at Hartford’s Center Church in March 1875. One of the early organizers was founder and editor of a newsletter called the Prisoners’ Friend, which prompted the first name of CPA, the <b>Prisoners’ Friend Association</b> . It was the only organization whose sole focus was to help form and reform the field of criminal justice. First agent appointed was <b>John C. Taylor</b> – someone hired to assist formerly incarcerated people in practical ways, especially young men who made bad choices.	P42, p81
1876	In 1876 the agency’s affiliation with the National Prison Association supplied the incentive to become the Connecticut Prison Association.	p.425
Jan 1 1879	Connecticut Prison Association is incorporated. Secretary of State for Connecticut online business records show Community Partners in Action (then CT Prison Association) was officially incorporated 1/1/1879. Annual reports in Connecticut State Library, with first one published in Jan. 1880.	<a href="#">onlineBusines</a> <a href="#">ssSearch</a> <a href="#">(ct.gov)</a> p.425

## CPA History Timeline

### 20th Century

Year	What Happened	Source
1903	Connecticut's first probation system in 1903 which authorized CPA to supervise the probation officers.	
1929	The Niantic Correctional Institution for women opened up initially as a farm and then as a reformatory prison in 1929, establishing a new standard on how women were to be treated. Before this, women were in prison and jails with men, if they weren't exiled or hanged.	p.318 P19-21 picture book
1962 - 1993	Board member William Worthington and his wife initiated the <b>Volunteer Sponsor Program (VSP)</b> to visit prisoners in the Somers State Prison and the Women's Prison in Niantic. The Volunteer Sponsor Program recruited, trained and assigned volunteers with approximately 200-275 active assignments by the 1980's. Approx. 20% of volunteers stayed in touch with people to help them reintegrate after their release.  The intent was for volunteers to be a "first friend" of the incarcerated and to serve a long-term goal of educating ordinary citizens about the problems facing prison administrators, guards and the prison culture, and enlist them in taking legislative action to improve prison and post-release supervision. The program was defunded in 1993 after a former female volunteer, Nancy Babb, admitted a former sponsoree into her Hartford apartment and he fatally assaulted her.	p.39 coffee table  p43 p386  p243 p386
1968	Creation of the Connecticut Department of Correction The DOC's directives are crafted in compliance with applicable American Correctional Association standards and state statutory and regulatory requirements.  <i>Rev. Joseph Gates, who became CPA's Executive Director in January 1958 chaired the search committee to select the first commissioner of the CT DOC.</i>	Connecticut Library, 1968 <a href="https://portal.ct.gov/DOC/Org/External-Affairs-Standards-and-Policy">https://portal.ct.gov/DOC/Org/External-Affairs-Standards-and-Policy</a>
1972	CPA hired attorneys Richard Cramer and James W. Greene to staff <b>Legal Assistance to Prisoners</b> . The goal was to make legal representation available to those in prisons as it is to other members of the community. By 1976 the program had four attorneys operating in Somers and Enfield.	Pp311-313
1977	Helped establish <b>Greater Hartford Criminal Justice Coalition</b> to coordinate employment services for those formerly incarcerated.	orientation
1978	The <b>Prison Arts program</b> is established to work inside Connecticut's prisons to give those inside an opportunity to express their creativity and a sense of hope. Longtime Prison Arts Manager Jeff Greene who teaches classes and puts on an annual show of prison arts sees it as a way to	How Art Changed the Prison

	engender empathy and integrate the people inside with the surrounding community.	
1980	Rev. Gordon S. Bates became Executive Director of CPA. He started his career as a volunteer and five years later he was hired to lead our <b>Volunteer Sponsor Program (VSP)</b> .	
Mid 80's - 1990	<p>Between 1985-1990 the AIC program spread across Connecticut with the CT Prison Association training staff for each new AIC, using a model developed in Hartford for the pretrial alternatives.</p> <p>CT established a network of private agencies contracted to provide <b>Alternatives to Incarceration</b> in the form of drop-in centers for electronic monitoring, community service projects and treatment for drug abuse and counseling services. These rehabilitative programs exist in the community for people charged with a "moderately serious offense". CPA opened the first AIC in Hartford in 1986 and now operates two more Alternative Incarceration Programs in Manchester (1988) and Waterbury (2011).</p>	<p>P369 p. 418</p> <p><u>Alternative Sentencing</u></p> <p>P370</p> <p>P.410</p>
1986	CPA's <b>AIDS Support Program</b> began providing services, funded by the Greater Hartford AIDS Consortium. CPA staff Sam Connor designed HIV awareness packets for released individuals and a peer education program called Beyond Fear.	p.409-410
1992	Sister Nancy Audette developed the <b>Resettlement program</b> . Churches were asked to draw upon their experience settling international refugees and apply it to helping the reentry of formerly incarcerated women. By 1994, the program had over 80 clients linked to 60 churches representing ten denominations. By 95-96, there were 450 clients.	p.405-407
1997	Maureen Knight Price (now Maureen Price-Boreland) was promoted to become the first black, first female, first non-clergy to head the Connecticut Prison Association.	p424
1997	The Connecticut Prison Association gives way to Community Partners in Action. "A name change for the agency was approved at the annual meeting in 1997 to Community Partners in Action."	P425
1998	CPA's chair, Judge Raymond R. Norko, set another precedent for CPA and the judiciary, establishing Connecticut's first <b>Community Court</b> . Community Partners in Action began supervising the Court's community service component for people charged with "quality of life" crimes, such as breach of the peace.	<p>p.410</p> <p>p.81 picture book</p>

## CPA History Timeline

### 21st Century

Community Residential Programs are secure, community-based, short-term residential services. They are used by Juvenile Court Judges, when appropriate, instead of putting juveniles in detention, and provide the juvenile a different place to live when doing so can be helpful.

Community Partners in Action currently operates two **Residential Treatment Programs** for youth – one in Hartford at **123 Washington Street** and a second in Hamden at **995 Sherman Avenue**.

Year	What Happened	Source*
Early 2000's	<p>CPA expanded its programs to youth operating a <b>Secure Residential Program</b> for female teens in Hartford. This was a new venture that provided a custodial setting in a more informal atmosphere, quite different from that in other State-contracted institutional settings. Youth were housed in the program while awaiting court decisions on release or further adjudication.</p> <p>This program provided intensive -secure services including education, structured recreation, community service, individual and group services, family mediation, and access to medical, mental health and substance abuse intervention and treatment. The goal was to create positive ties between the youth and their communities.</p>	75-78 coffee table
2011	Received funding from the CT Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division to run a Juvenile Detention Enrichment Program for juveniles in the Hartford and Bridgeport State Juvenile Detention Centers.	
2011	<b>Waterbury Alternative to Incarceration</b> operated by CPA opened. In 2015 CPA staff began operating the <b>Transitional Housing program</b> .	
2016	Hartford Secure Residential Program for female youth closes.	
2018 - Present	<b>Hartford Reentry Welcome Center</b> opens in City Hall in 2018 and moves to an expanded location in 2022 at Windsor Street. Waterbury Reentry Welcome Center opens in December 2021 at 77 Bishop Street, Waterbury.	
2020	<p>The Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (CSSD) awards Community Partners in Action a multi-million-dollar contract in 2020 to run its <b>Community Residential Treatment Program</b> (REGIONS) for male youth aged 13-18 based in Hartford and Hamden. Provides a custodial setting in a more informal home-like environment.</p> <p>Justice involved youth stay in the program for about 6 – 8 months. The program is CSSD funded, and the boys receive on-site medical and psychiatric services, education, and supportive counseling in a secure, gender-sensitive setting.</p>	
2021	The <b>Waterbury Reentry Welcome Center</b> began serving participants and moved into a completely refurbished space at 77 Bishop Street in	

	September 2022. By the April 2023 ribbon cutting, the center had served nearly 170 people.	
2022	Grand opening of the <b>Hartford Reentry Welcome Center</b> at 716 Windsor Street, Hartford with the expanded center acting as a resource center and welcoming place for people who are returning to the Hartford Community after incarceration.	
Fall 2022	<p>Large expansion of the CPA-operated <b>Community Residential Treatment Program</b> (REGIONS) for male youth in Hamden, with a new “step down” wing where youth transition after successfully moving through Phase I of the program, which opened in 2020.</p> <p>The second phase includes six beds and several vocational rooms where youth can learn practical skills like operating a fork-lift truck, learning barbering skills or just expressing themselves in the recording studio. Youth in this wing attend a community-based school run by Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES), the program’s education provider.</p>	

## **CPA History – A Leadership Sample**

### **John C. Taylor, CPA's First Agent, 1875**

The first person to be hired by the organizers on March 11, 1875 was John C. Taylor whose role as Agent was to assist formerly incarcerated people to overcome the multitude of obstacles they faced in reentering the community. He was a Civil War veteran and on a cannon there is a 1902 dedication from Taylor's regiment that sits outside the state capital in Hartford. His job was to enlist businesses to hire people with a criminal record, and to serve as the contact person for the various social services available in the towns and cities across Connecticut.

### **CPA President William B. Bailey, 1910 – 1933**

Professor of economics in the middle of a 25-year career at Yale University. Brought determined and consistent advocacy to several important issues in criminal justice during his tenure. He developed an independent Committee on Delinquent Women and organized studies of the conditions of the county jail for women versus other states. His efforts paid off. In 1917, Connecticut passed Public Act 358, "establishing a State Farm for Women." In 1929 women prisoners were transferred from the state prison in Wethersfield to the new facility in Niantic.

### **Attorney James W. Greene, Legal Assistance to Prisoners Program (1970's)**

Jim's vision was to improve the quality of life for people who were incarcerated, which aligned with the mission of CPA. In the 1970's CPA hired attorney James W. Greene to staff Legal Assistance to Prisoners along with Richard Cramer, with the aim of making legal representation available to those incarcerated on the same basis as it is available to members of the community. In 1975 Jim Greene assumed the role of Director of the program and Richard Cramer left to become a public defender. In May 1976, Governor Ella Grasso signed the law that guaranteed the States financial willingness to underwrite Legal Assistance to Prisoners. By the end of 1976 there were four attorneys who were managing 889 cases. The program was able to reduce the level of frustration from those incarcerated and the number of those winning or settling their cases with the help of the Legal Assistance program was growing. Greene told the CPA Board that allowing those incarcerated access to an attorney to clarify a complaint often brought resolution in days that would otherwise have required weeks of court time.

Jim was also instrumental in the Alternatives to Incarceration program in Connecticut. In 1986, Jim traveled to England with then DOC deputy commissioner, Larry Albert to observe the British use of Intermediate sanctions, in the form of day-reporting centers. Within several months of their return, the first Alternative Incarceration Center for felony offenders was launched as a day supervision and training facility. Jim implemented the first AIC in Hartford and all new program employees were trained by him. He passed away in January 2021.

### **Anne Koletsky, Volunteer Sponsor Program (1970's-1980's)**

The Volunteer Service Program at the Niantic Correctional Institution benefited greatly from CPA staff Anne Koletsky's leadership. She was motivated by a sense of compassion for the woman in the Niantic prison, backed by the Warden Betty Durland. She aimed to humanize the prison environment and her energy and vision with the Niantic staff kept the VSP strong when all the male programs were declining.

### **Gordon S. Bates, CPA Executive Director (1980 – 1997)**

Gordon Bates was an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. He was a CPA volunteer from 1964 – 1968; then named program director of the Volunteer Service Program, which he led until he was appointed Executive Director in 1980.

Under Gordon’s leadership, CPA was able to help to offset some of the damaging affects of mass incarceration and those recently released from prison. The Volunteer Sponsor Program, Legal Aid to Prisoners, AIDS Support Program and Time Out for You Program were just a few of the many services that flourished under his leadership.

Before Gordon retired in 1997, he led CPA through a significant change, evolving the organization which emphasized Prison to one that focused on a larger purpose and stressed the work we were already doing in the community.

He wrote the book *The Connecticut Prison Association and the Search for Reformatory Justice*, published by Wesleyan University Press in 2017. He also wrote a coffee table version of the book called, “Consistency, Creativity and Commitment: the story of Community Partners in Action: 1875-2015.”

CPA established the Gordon Bates Scholarship Program in 1997 in his honor. The award is used for tuition, books, or supplies for a CPA participant enrolled in college or career training.

[Read more.](#)

### **Maureen Knight Price, CPA Executive Director (2007 – 2018)**

Maureen became Executive Director of the Connecticut Prison Association in 1997 when Gordon S Bates retired.

Price-Boreland joined CPA in 1986 and was Executive Director for 21 years. She was the first female, first Black and first non-clergy person to lead the agency. During her three decades at CPA, Price-Boreland fostered an agency culture based on the beliefs that 1) people can change, 2) a person is better than the worst thing they have ever done, 3) others should always be treated with dignity and respect, and 4) everyone deserves a second chance.

In May 2018, Maureen was selected as a Superior Court Judge for the New Haven Judicial District and left Community Partners in Action. Price-Boreland was an adjunct Professor at Central Connecticut State University in the Criminal Justice Department.

### **Former Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy, Second Chance Society (2015)**

On February 3, 2015 the former Governor announced the Second Chance Society as a sign of hope and more emphasis on rehabilitation and reduced dependence on retribution. He proposed changes in five areas which passed by both houses of the state legislature at the end of June 2015. The proposal included a focus on real jobs and housing opportunities, and streamlining the parole and pardon system to give those who were formerly incarcerated a greater chance at employment. Michael Lawlor the undersecretary for criminal justice and planning at the time was also a tireless negotiator for a more effective criminal justice system.