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SUMMER/FALL 2026 – *Building the Future with CPA*

A Message From Our Executive Director



There's a great deal happening at Community Partners in Action, and I'm excited about where we're headed!

As we build on our 150-year legacy, our strategic planning process brought participants, staff, Board members, funders and partners together to help shape CPA's next five years. We're also investing in the spaces where lives are changed, from our new REGIONS Education Innovation Growth & Navigation (REIGN) Center in Hartford to expanded programming and training opportunities at our Waterbury Reentry Welcome Center.

We're celebrating significant funding milestones, too. Our advocacy helped secure $1.5 million in annual state support for Connecticut's six Reentry Welcome Centers. More recently, CPA received $600,000 in Reimagine & Revitalize (R^2) Community Reinvestment awards to strengthen our Hartford and Waterbury centers. This three-year investment will expand in-reach services at CT's Correctional Institutions, connecting individuals with critical supports before they return home. We're grateful to the Connecticut Social Equity Council and its regional partners for investing in second chances and stronger communities.

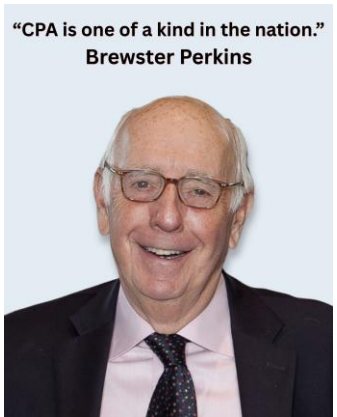
We're also reaching new audiences through the Travelers Championship Birdies for Charity program and this weekend's Eversource Hartford Marathon, while strengthening our own team through professional development, collaboration and leadership opportunities. And, don't miss a special Prison Arts Program *Out of Prison / Making Art* Alumni Show taking place now at CT State Capital

These accomplishments reflect something greater than organizational growth. They represent more opportunities to change lives.

To our dedicated staff, Board, supporters and partners, thank you for making this progress possible.

Together, we're not just imagining CPA's future. We're building it. –***Beth***

A Lifetime of Service and a Belief in Second Chances



When Brewster Perkins decides a nonprofit is worthy of his support, that decision comes from an unusually informed perspective.

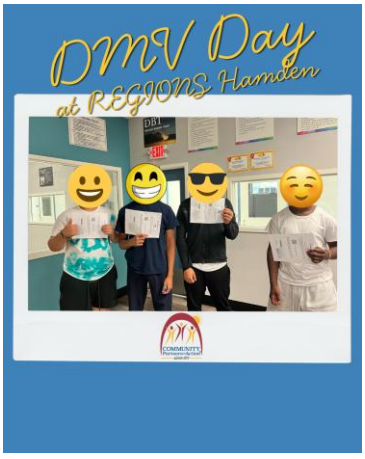
For more than four decades, Brewster built a career helping Connecticut nonprofits manage risk, strengthen governance and fulfill their missions. His relationship with Community Partners in Action began in 1985, when then-Executive Director Gordon Bates sought his help securing insurance coverage for an organization serving people involved in the criminal justice system.

Over time, Brewster came to know CPA's leadership and mission firsthand. He developed close relationships with Bates, his successor Maureen Price-Boreland and current Executive Director Beth Hines. Today, after decades of working with nonprofit organizations, he considers CPA one of the leading organizations of its kind in the nation.

His commitment to service began long before his professional career. Inspired by President John F. Kennedy's call to public service, Brewster joined the Peace Corps, serving in India, and later served in the U.S. Army. He and his wife, Judith, built their life in Connecticut and raised three children.

For Brewster, philanthropy is about more than making a gift. He looks at leadership, governance, stewardship and whether an organization produces meaningful results. By those measures, CPA continues to earn his confidence and support. His giving, including through planned-giving approaches he helped CPA better understand, is ultimately a vote of confidence in the power of second chances. *Read the complete story on our* ***Impact Blog***.

DMV Day: Independence in Action at REGIONS Hamden



Preparing young people for adulthood often happens one practical milestone at a time. At a recent State of Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles Day at REGIONS Hamden, 17 young people had the opportunity to take an important step toward greater independence.

Eleven earned learner's permits and six obtained state identification cards. For the young people involved, those documents represent much more than a successful trip to the DMV. They can open doors to mobility, employment and the everyday responsibilities of adulthood.

The day was also a great example of collaboration among CPA staff, Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division, DMV personnel and others who helped make sure the youth had the documentation and support they needed. DMV staff described it as the best DMV Day they had experienced since the initiative began.

Congratulations to our young people, and thank you to everyone who helped make the day possible.

Building New Opportunities at Washington Street

There's a lot happening at CPA's Washington Street campus in Hartford, and each project is connected to the same goal: creating safe, functional and engaging environments where participants can learn, grow and prepare for what comes next.



Our new REGIONS Education Innovation Growth & Navigation Center (REIGN) will broaden hands-on learning and practical educational opportunities for young people as they prepare for life beyond REGIONS. For a young person who may not yet see a clear path forward, discovering an aptitude for woodworking, culinary arts, mechanics or another hands-on skill can open the door to something larger: confidence in what one is capable of achieving.

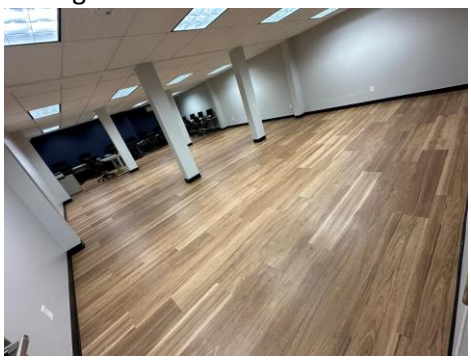
The campus has also seen a major REGIONS kitchen expansion and renovation, including a new oven, quarry tile flooring and a serving window. New flooring has been installed in multiple office and program areas, while additional

projects have addressed fire and life-safety systems, electrical and mechanical needs, doors, roofing, security and other essential building improvements.

The buildings themselves are only part of the story. What matters is what becomes possible inside them: a young person learning a new skill, discovering an aptitude he did not know he had and beginning to imagine a different future.

More Space and Resources in Waterbury

CPA's Greater Waterbury Reentry Welcome Center is expanding what participants can do when they walk through its doors.

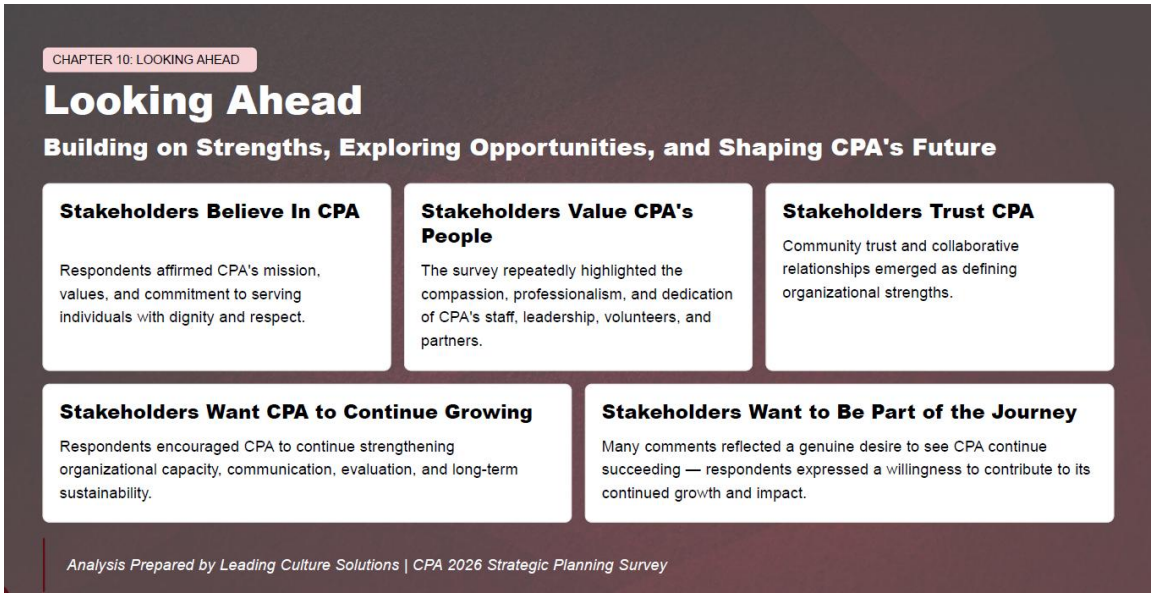


New and improved space provides room for computer access, Job Club meetings, OSHA and other workforce training, workshops with community partners, and additional opportunities for participants to build skills and connect with resources. The expansion includes new flooring, a kitchenette, increased office space and room for additional support services.

For someone returning home from incarceration, access to a computer can mean completing a job application or preparing a résumé. A training session can lead to a credential. A meeting with a community partner can become the connection that helps remove a barrier to stability.

The expanded Waterbury space gives CPA and our partners more ways to bring those opportunities together under one roof.

The Results Are In: Stakeholders Value & Trust in CPA's Mission



CPA's strategic planning process is moving from listening and learning toward action.

Earlier this year, 241 people representing seven stakeholder groups participated in our strategic planning survey, and some of the results are highlighted on the graphic above. The data strongly affirmed CPA's mission, the

dignity and respect shown to participants, our welcoming culture and the trust CPA has built in the community. They also pointed toward opportunities to strengthen organizational capacity, communication, service navigation, impact measurement and readiness for the future.

Focus groups have since helped explore those findings more deeply and on Oct. 7, staff and board members came together for an all-day retreat to discuss how those ideas can be translated into best practices, strategies and an actionable plan for the next three years.

The goal is not to change the values that have guided CPA for more than 150 years. It is to strengthen the systems and capacity that will allow our mission to continue growing and succeeding well into the future.

Investing in Leadership: Emotional Intelligence

CPA recently launched the first in a series of Leadership Mastermind workshops for mid-to-executive management personnel focused on Emotional Intelligence, led by CPA Board member Karen Senteio.



A certified executive coach and consultant with more than 30 years of experience spanning corporate, academic, medical, government and nonprofit sectors, Karen is helping CPA leaders explore how emotional awareness can strengthen leadership, relationships, communication and organizational culture.
The first workshop left CPA's leaders with two additions to their reading lists: Brené Brown's "Atlas of the Heart" and Susan David's "Emotional Agility."

The series comes at an especially appropriate time. As CPA develops its three-year strategic plan and invests in programs and facilities, we are also investing in the people who will help lead the organization into its next chapter.

Thank You for Building the Future With Us

Every improvement described in this issue, from a young person earning a learner's permit to expanded reentry services and stronger leadership, reflects the same belief that has guided CPA for more than 150 years: people deserve meaningful opportunities to move forward.

We are grateful to the donors, funders, community partners, volunteers, board members and friends who make CPA's work possible.

MAKE A GIFT TODAY

Community Partners in Action
110 Bartholomew Avenue | Suite 3010 | Hartford CT | 06106