

CSSD Quarterly Chronicle



February 2022

State of Connecticut Judicial Court Support Service Division

Office Giving Charities 2021

Dear JB - CSSD,

In this quarter's Chronicle we highlight the exceptional community and charitable work that our division participated in during this past holiday season. As you will read in the pages that follow, you and your colleagues throughout the state once again went above and beyond in thoughtfulness, kindness, and generosity. Outstanding work by all.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate everyone who will be retiring in the next few months. Your dedication, commitment and professionalism will be missed. Please take some time after you retire to reflect upon your outstanding careers and celebrate the great work each of you have contributed to the Branch and our division. I wish you all a happy, healthy, and productive retirement.

For those who will still be here throughout 2022 and beyond we certainly have much work to do. In each of our disciplines, this year will bring further change, growth, and progress. I look forward to working with each of you to enhance the services we provide to the Courts and the clients we serve.

In closing, I wish you all, and your families, a healthy and safe new year. Thank you and take good care.

~ Gary A. Roberge ~
Executive Director

Amethyst Program

Jail Re-Interview Services (JRI) typically collects donations and gifts during the Holiday season for the women and children at CSSD's contracted APT FOUNDATION Amethyst program for pregnant women and their children. The team would usually visit the program and spend time presenting the gifts. This year JRI collected donations as a team and are providing the program with gift cards to have a pizza party. The team is also putting together other necessities that the women and their children can use while in programming. The JRI team has the opportunity to meet the children of the clients they have placed into the program. In years past, the clients made beautiful thank you cards that JRI has collected through the years. The program greatly appreciates the connection and kindness between the JRI team, program staff, and clients.

~ Amy Reyes ~

Safe Haven Christmas

So here at Waterbury Adult Probation we had several fundraisers over the last few months.

As an office we raised and donated over \$400 in cash to a Naugatuck Police Officer who was severely injured on the job back in early November.

THANKSGIVING Waterbury Adult Probation (AP) raised and donated approximately \$400 and purchased enough Thanksgiving food for over 60 people to eat. The food was donated to Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries Food Pantry.

Christmas Waterbury Adult Probation raised and donated \$875 which was used to purchase gift cards for families involved with Waterbury Safe Haven. Additionally, our office also donated toys and children's books to Safe Haven. Safe Haven provides crisis intervention to victims/families associated with domestic violence.

Finally, we are currently taking up a collection for an employee in the Public Defender's Office within Waterbury Superior Court who is currently battling a serious health issue.

Waterbury Adult Probation continues to demonstrate a history of generosity and selflessness by helping many community agencies and individuals throughout the year. I couldn't be prouder to be a part of this great office.

*We had a "Miracle on Scovill Street."
Thanks to an office wide effort including our
court office staff we collected \$875.00.*

~ Gregory Sullivan ~

Deanna Recchia & Allison Chance
Bought Gift Cards



Nikki Grella, Matt Generali, Flannigan Smith
Donated New Toys



Family Services

New Haven Family Services:

The New Haven Family Services office adopted two families for the holiday season this year and supported a food drive prior to Thanksgiving. In addition, we made donations as an office to the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital to honor extended family that passed away this year.

New London Family Services:

The New London Family Services office did a collection for the holidays and donated to Whalershelpingwhalers.org— they distributed food baskets and clothing to people in New London.

Middletown Family Services:

The Middletown Family Services office coordinated a food drive around Thanksgiving that resulted in an SUV-full of food donations to St. Vincent de Paul soup kitchen and pantry. In addition, they contributed to the courthouse-wide toy drive.

Vernon Family Services:

The Vernon Family Services office made a donation to the Alzheimer's Association for the holidays.

Waterbury Family Services:

The Waterbury Family Services office participated in a toy drive for Safe Haven children.

~ Joseph DiTunno ~

Norwich Adult Probation (AP)

Norwich (AP) has participated in the Norwich Sunday Community Luncheon in the past and has signed up for three meals for 2022. The Norwich Sunday Community Luncheon is, for some, the only meal they have on Sundays, as it is the one day St. Vincent de Paul Place does not serve meals. The meal includes a main dish, a vegetable or fruit, a snack, and a beverage. Probation staff will either serve it at a local church, or it will be prepackaged and Staff from Norwich Probation will hand the meals out.

Norwich Adult Probation provides meals for 100, and the meals have gone quickly in the past. Norwich Adult Probation also periodically gathers items that are needed at the St. Vincent de Paul Place. A box of canned goods has been collected recently and currently Officers are gathering toiletries to deliver to the Soup kitchen to hand out to people in need. Staff do this a few times a year.

~ Maureen Aquino ~



Bristol Adult Probation

The Holiday Spirit is alive in Bristol

Thanks to your generosity and donations we were able to give two families in our area a great holiday season! You left nothing out. What a way to close out 2021! Shout outs to all the Probation staff for your kindness, wrapping skills and creative basket making. Special thanks to Stephanie Benoit for coordinating with Southington Family Services.

~ Jim Santiago ~



Bristol Adult Probation

Thank you to all who donated to the 2021 Bristol Probation Food Drive for the St Vincent DePaul Shelter.

Due to your generosity, we were able to collect 25 pounds of food goods and multiple hoodies which the shelter designated as needed items. And an even bigger Kudos to Melissa Thornton for organizing!

~ Jim Santiago ~

Thank You for the work you
do to make the workplace great.

Happy
Thanksgiving!



Christmas Angels Donation

Bridgeport Adult Probation

We would like to thank everyone at Bridgeport Adult Probation who made generous donations (approximately \$900) which made it possible to purchase working boots, fleece jackets, thermals and underwear for the 13 residents at the Bridgeport Rescue Mission. We'd also like to extend a special thank you to Keri Rosini who received some donations (thermals, underwear, socks, hats and gloves) from a friend out of state.

~ Ulysses Serpa ~



Juvenile Probation Bridgeport, Stamford, Torrington

Bridgeport Juvenile Probation

This year, Juvenile Probation Officer Bui and Administrative Clerk Erin Jasso worked with the Bridgeport Juvenile Probation Staff to prepare Thanksgiving baskets for 34 Juvenile Probation families in need of assistance. The baskets were filled with a turkey and all the ingredients to help them celebrate the holiday season.

Stamford Juvenile Probation

Every year, the Stamford Juvenile Probation Staff partners with members of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated of Stamford, Connecticut to make sure Juvenile Probation families, in need of additional support, receive a Thanksgiving basket filled with a turkey and food items.

Torrington Juvenile Probation

Every year, Juvenile Probation Officer Morton works with Torrington and Winchester Youth Services Bureau (YSB) on Christmas Angels. The YSB's have an extensive list of families in need of assistance during the holiday season and the families provide their children's Christmas lists on a "Christmas Angel". Officer Morton works with her colleagues in Torrington Juvenile Probation and staff throughout the Torrington Courthouse to purchase gifts on the wish lists of 20-30 children.

~ Tasha Hunt ~



Adult Bail GA10 New London Toy Drive

Shawna Gonzales, IAR Specialist, for Bail Services in New London Superior Court organized a toy drive to benefit Safe Futures. Numerous toys were collected because of the generosity of the courthouse staff and Shawna's organization of this toy drive.

~ Mike Hines ~

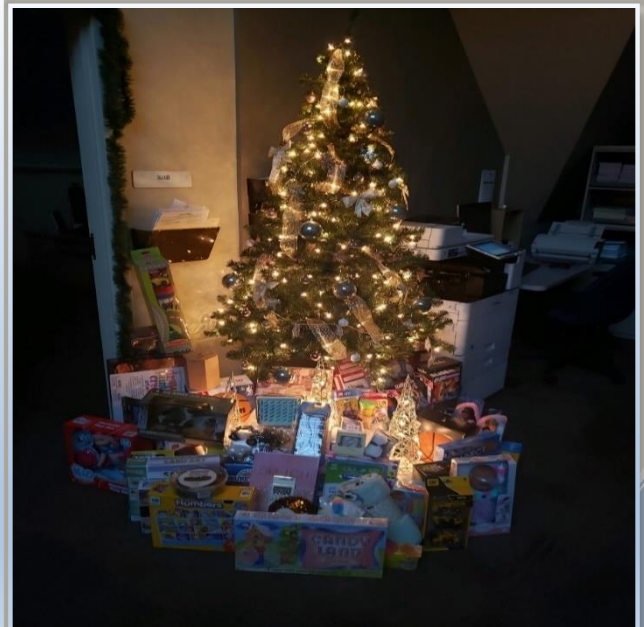
GA10 TOY DRIVE

Bring smiles this holiday season to the children of Safe Futures!



Toys can be placed in the box found in the 3rd Floor Bail Office and must be received by the week of December 13th.

Thanks to all who made the Thanksgiving Food Drive a success!



~ Central Office ~ Multicultural Affairs Unit (MAU)



Central Office hosted its 3rd Annual Couch Cram Toy Drive which benefitted families of clients in CSSD's Transitional Housing Programs which includes CPA's Hartford & Waterbury men's programs and Project MORE's New Haven men and women's programs. The event was a success with many new toys and gift cards being collected. A big thank you to all who donated! Many staff also participated in an end of year cube decorating contest, with festive decorations adorning doors, walls, and cube areas. The laughter and cheer was a wonderful way to end the year!

~ Lia Cestaro ~



Deck the Hall with Boughs of Holly

Hartford Adult Probation has HOLIDAY SPIRIT and it's on full display! In light of many of the challenges our agency has faced over the past couple years, our office decided to make up for lost time. It all started the day after Thanksgiving, and just like that, the office Christmas tree was born! Keeping in true Christmas tree theme, our office hosted a toy drive, whose recipients included our clients' families, a local shelter, and the Hispanic Health Counsel. Dozens of unwrapped gifts poured in and were placed under our tree, as Chief Probation Officers fueled the donations by creating raffle prizes for those who participated. We even got a 65" flat screen TV donated, which was raffled off to a staff member who donated double-digit toys! In addition to hosting a very successful toy drive, Chiefs, PO's, and administrative staff alike decked their doors in a competition unlike any this office has ever seen! Our very intense door-decorating contest ranged in theme, from **Suzy Snowflake** to **Three Kings Day**. Amongst the glitter, Christmas lights, and candy canes emerged the winning door: a larger-than-life gingerbread house created by "DNA Jen!" Hartford's newest PO Pedro Franco took a close second, with his "**Take a sELFie**" themed photobooth door, followed by several close runner-up's. In fact, if you take a ride on 91 South, you may even see CPO Robert LaPlant's 8-foot-tall blow-up Santa Claus waving at you from his window!



~ Semona Childs, Melissa Chin-Hing, Keith Degraffenreidt ~

Hartford Adult Probation



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