WEST HAVEN (March 22, 2012) – More than a month of planning and preparation came to fruition recently when clients in the Community Connections program visited the West Haven Animal Control Shelter at 7 Collis Street to donate various animal related food and goods, as well as eight plastic bags full of returnable bottles and cans to be redeemed for cash to benefit the shelter.

Part of the regular programming for the clients in Community Connections includes getting involved in the community around them, said Disability Services Director Marie Watson. “Clients started making the boxes for items in February, and they have also been collecting the returnable bottles and cans, and various animal food stuffs for more than a month.”

Community Connections is the Day Services arm of the West Haven Community House’s programs for adults with developmental disabilities. On the day of the donation visit, clients helped load up
Clients donate to Animal Shelter –

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the various items including dog and cat food, play toys and collars for the short trip to the Animal Control Shelter.

The Community Connection contingent was warmly greeted by Animal Control Shelter Staff members, who took clients on a tour through the facility. The Animal Control Division is supervised by Sgt. Angelo Moscato of the West Haven police department and is also staffed by Animal Control Officers Janice Melin, Denice Rabbito, and Jim Vitelli.

In addition to Community Connections clients and staff participating, Head Start program Office Manager Kelly Ruickoldt also helped with the donation effort, being a long-time supporter of the local shelter. Canning said, “Anyone in the community can drop off their recyclable cans & bottles. The money is used is to help defray the cost of unexpected emergency services provided to the animals, as most animals at the shelter are lost & found.”

For more information, the shelter can be emailed at Pounddog@yahoo.com or call Officer Vitelli at (203) 937-3642.

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To learn more about Community Connections and West Haven Community House, call Marie Watson at (203) 932-4004 x104, or Chris Carroll at (203) 934-5221, ext. 133.