

Stay Connected

A program of West Haven Community House
227 Elm St., West Haven, CT 06516

Residential and Day Services

West Haven Community House Has Served the Needs of West Haven and its People Since 1941

'Creating Memories' With Family & Friends at Semi-Formal Dinner-Dance at Anthony's



There were cheers and picture-taking, good food and dancing. There were prizes and gifts, and of course, dessert on March 10 when the residential program clients, family and staff gathered at Anthony's Ocean View restaurant in East Haven. The occasion was the annual "Dinner Dance" where clients

have the opportunity to get dressed up, visit a fine local restaurant, listen to presentations and to be called upon for recognition. It is a fun time mingling with families and staff and just having a good time exchanging stories and memories. Residential Director Davaul Amin was the evening's emcee and dinner program director. He read his poem, "Babies," whose message he deftly tied to the theme of the evening, on how special it is to have memories and to share good times with friends. Clients and families were joined by staff, team leaders, residential and day staff, as well as administrators in the evening that was capped off with raffles and dancing.



Babies By Davaul Amin

Babies resemble the early dawn as it yearns closer towards night.

They're on the verge on constantly learning, for they don't know wrong from right.

When first born or very young, the world is somewhat strange,

For they have no intuition of the place to which they came.

Not yet learning prejudice or the worlds' cold hearted soul, the trials and the tribulations they'll face till they grow old.

But then again, life's not so bad for in life there are good times, like sharing days with loved ones, sharing memories left behind.

To a baby everything is new and hard to comprehend, so give them love and affection, something we all should recommend.

Casino outing takes minds off all the snow this winter



January was a rough month for everyone this year. Heavy snows meant missed program days, and even when the programs were open, it was really difficult to get around. Well, after a long and snowy January, it was time to hit the casino at Foxwoods, where Charlene, Russell, Nick and Janice experienced a little of the glitter and glamour, as well as Kim and Tessa, pictured above. It was a day off grounds to enjoy some lunch and to try one's luck. And guess what? – Charlene won \$20 on her first time playing the slot machines!

Trip features tour of State Library

While March winds blew, Community Connections clients were fortunate enough to have received a private tour of the Connecticut State Library in downtown Hartford.



A good socializing activity, as well as an opportunity to learn more about some Connecticut history, clients Robert, Jamie, Ralph and Purnell enjoyed their trip to the state capitol city, led by staff member Wanda. The visitors were impressed with the incredible architecture of the building and felt specially treated with a personally guided tour.

A Very Special Milestone Birthday!



Jennie was recently joined by friends and others in celebrating her 60th birthday. Congratulations to Jennie on reaching this special milestone birthday!

Hoops Hall of Fame Visit 'Nets' Shirts for Clients

On March 11, in preparation for college basketball's "March Madness" men's and women's national championship tournaments, clients and staff visited the "Basketball Hall of Fame" in Springfield, MA. With trip goals including exploring common interests with friends, socializing and just having fun, Team Leader Dave led clients TJ, Marcus, Russell, Carlos and Purnell on their day journey.

All were eager participants on the trip, and even had a chance to shoot some "hoops" and tour the museum that highlighted some of basketball's most famous stars.

It was also a special day for Marcus, who celebrated his birthday that day. Afterward, everyone was extremely proud to show off their new souvenir shirts to the folks back home.

Experiencing 'disability' helps staff to understand it better



Day Services staff learned first-hand about the challenges a blind person faces in handling every day tasks during a recent staff training day. In addition to being recertified in CPR, First Aid and federal safety (OSHA) regulations, staff also participated in a team-building exercise, according to Disability Services Director Marie Watson.



New Employees

Residential

Deja Moore
Natasha Davis
Damond James
Jessica LiMauro

Community Connections Day Service

Rachel Cushion
J'Maela Douglas
Jerome Meyers
Paula Rodgers
Bernadette Bergvik

The activity was to bake cupcakes, with a twist: the participants were blindfolded to experience a little something of what it is like to be blind while attempting to do what many consider a relatively simple baking task. Without the aid of using their eyesight, staff members had to rely on their hearing alone to see how well they could complete the task of baking.

The idea was for staff to better understand how a blind person feels when trying to complete a simple baking activity and each participant came away with a renewed appreciation for what most take for granted but not what everyone has: eyesight.



Pictured above along with WEBC 108 staff member Robby Bridges is Cathy Crawford, who won a Pizza luncheon and other freebies for Day Services staff after entering the agency into a radio contest.



The Carousel Museum at Lighthouse Point in New Haven was the destination for this smiling group of visitors recently.

Attention!!! Case Managers

Community Connections has openings for full Day Service Option (DSO) clients. If you have a client or know of a person who might benefit from our services for adults, please contact:

Karl Pepin
(203) 931-4004, ext. 102
karlpepin@whcommunityhouse.net



Congrats to Robert Jones on his move into an apartment with Dennis Macker in March, and welcome to the Community Connections Day Program, Robert!

Client shares joy of reading with Child Care Class



“Practice makes perfect” and one example of a Community Connections client making that oft-repeated adage come true occurred in March when Katrina Turner, seated, selected a book to read to a kindergarten class at the Malloy School. Katrina practiced reading her book to her Day Program group at Community Connections for months. Then, on the appointed day, she delighted the Malloy School students with her reading. It worked out so well that the Director of Disability Services, Marie Watson, says that Katrina will be reading to the children more often. “It is an example of a wonderful collaboration!” Watson said.

At the Theatre

It’s always fun to go to the theatre and “Shrek” was the feature at the Bushnell in Hartford on this recent outing. Pictured are Barbara, Enaida, Deborah and Jennie.



A Fun Time Skating at the Ice Pavilion

Few other things in winter are more fun than ice skating and that’s what clients did from December through February at nearby Milford Ice Pavilion. Building on the fun experience they had last year, Tim, Caprice and Nina were joined by Dave, Tessa, Kim and Annette, who all took to the ice to learn to skate or to just cheer their peers on. They were joined by staff members Treivor and Ariana. While the cold weather and snows have faded, the good memories remain.

Music Soothes the Soul!

There was music in the air, literally, on March 18 and 25 when Day Program participants packed up their lunches and headed to the Neighborhood School of Music in New Haven. It was another fine occasion to practice their social skills in public as well as broaden their appreciation of a fine musical performance. Sean, Sharon, Nina and Zandra were joined by staffers Shaneika and Ariana on March 18. And they had so much fun the first time, they went back again the next week.

Rainforest Cafe hosts ‘lunch’

There is nothing like an indoor lunch at the Mall on a cold March day when it’s still too chilly to do much else. In this case, the Rainforest Cafe at the West Farms Shopping Mall in West Hartford was the scene where Kim, Tessa, TJ and Nina joined up with staff member, Treivor, at the animated themed restaurant. A nice meal and pleasant time was enjoyed by all.