

Welcome to the second edition of *The Front Line*.

This quarterly newsletter is developed to keep you informed of what's happening in your Community Action Agency.

With this issue, we are reaching out to share our story and those of people we have helped — with you, our municipal, business and community service leaders throughout our ten town region.

We welcome your comments and questions at dstroman@teaminc.org

Bike Rodeo



On May 4, 2006 Early Care & Education held its 1st annual SAFE KIDS bike rodeo Family Event. 160 people attended. 99 children in ECE and their siblings were fitted for free bike helmets from Griffin Hospital's SAFE KIDS coalition.

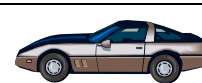
Once the children got fitted for a helmet, they got a chance to test out their skills on the "Bike Rodeo" track set up on the playground staffed by TEAM and SAFE KIDS. Preferred One, CAIRWAYS from the NVHD, and Food Stamps professionals were on hand with info for parents. Kids enjoyed a face painting station, giant bubble station, and coin toss. TEAM staff grilled hot dogs with chips and juice on the side for our hungry families.

Two lucky families won brand new bikes, donated by Preferred One, through the event raffle.

For information about TEAM's Preschool Programs call 734-8609



IDA Women Buy Cars



TEAM's Individual Development Accounts (IDA) Program helped 3 low-income women from Seymour purchase automobiles in April and May.

Each woman saved \$500 and received a \$1000 match from TEAM to make their purchases.

Since 2005, the women had participated in IDA, the TEAM program that helps low-income people save toward major assets and learn skills in money management.

Christine, one of the three women, purchased a 1992 Chevy Lumina. The new car will help Christine, who works as a health aide for Birmingham Group, visit her clients through out the Valley. "The car also will help her get to classes at Gateway Community College, where she goes to school," said Jennifer Centopanti, IDA manager.



Another of the three women, Kate purchased a 2001 Subaru Forester (picture left). As a housekeeper, Kate must travel to many different people's homes to do her work. "She even has a client in Stamford, so the car will be a big help for her," Centopanti said.



The third participant, Jenny purchased a 1995 Pontiac Sunfire (picture left). Jenny had borrowed her sister's car to get to work and bring a daughter to and from day care. The car sharing put Jenny "on the run" constantly until her new purchase.

Centopanti said the new cars will help all the women keep their current jobs, and let one even increase her work hours.

"All three are very excited about their new cars," said Centopanti. "All three are very happy IDA was available to them."

Beyond Shelter in Action



A domestic violence victim who had lived 4 months at Umbrella's safe home moved into her own apartment in Waterbury after counseling by TEAM's Beyond Shelter. Jaime Fields, Beyond Shelter Coordinator, helped the person move furniture and obtain pots, pans and utensils for cooking in the new apartment. Recently, another Beyond Shelter participant obtained a job after counseling with Fields.

In related news, Garfield Fitzpatrick, TEAM's Employment Manager, ran a resume workshop for residents of Spooner House, the Valley homeless shelter, and the Umbrella safe home, the two shelters Beyond Shelter assists. Fitzpatrick discussed how to update work resumes and conduct a job search. Fields said the workshop prepared residents for a job fair on June 8th held by Atrium Windows of Shelton, which was recruiting for 20 positions.

Beyond Shelter helps the formerly homeless develop skills to obtain and keep housing on their own.

Summer Jobs for Youth



More than sixty youth from Shelton, Derby, Seymour, Oxford, and Beacon Falls will be working at summer jobs because of a new program run by TEAM.

The Municipal Summer Youth Employment Program gives jobs to youth, ages 14 to 21, whose family income is below 150% of the federal poverty level (about \$30,000 for a family of four). Youth will hold part-time jobs in city government or non-profits for at least 5 weeks.

Funding for the jobs program comes through The WorkPlace, Inc.

Rent and Repair



TEAM has won a \$15,000 grant through TD BankNorth's Charitable Foundation *Housing for Everyone* competition. TEAM was one of 6 nonprofits in CT to win one of the competition grants. Funding will let TEAM help formerly homeless people from its program, Beyond Shelter. TEAM will give vouchers to repair apartments where the former homeless live; in turn, cooperating landlords will cut rents for the tenants up to \$250 a month. The savings will help the Beyond Shelter clients get established on their own.



Annual Appeal Kick Off

TEAM kicks off it's 2006 Annual Appeal Fundraiser with a CENTER STAGE Production of the Tony award winning comedy "Art" being held on Thursday evening, August 31st. It promises to be a memorable evening of entertainment at down town Shelton's newest theatre, Center Stage 100 Center Street. Social hour of horsd'oeuvres and wine, beer or soda begins at 7:00 P.M. Curtain at 8:00P.M. Ticket Donation is \$50.00 to benefit TEAM's Elderly and Preschool Nutrition Programs. For ticket information contact Sue Cirella at 736-5420 ext. 1221.