

Spring 2010

Day of Caring

Undeterred by clouds and rain, more than 60 employee volunteers from SINA's member institutions came out in force for the 2009 United Way Day of Caring. Their efforts and energy helped make their community shine; from washing windows and fixing doorbells, to raking mulch and pulling weeds. Although the institutions had participated in the Day of Caring in the past, this year their work had a new local focus. With SINA's facilitation, the volunteers had an opportunity to show they care in the neighborhood where they work everyday.

"Many employees drive into the community from miles away," explains Steve Balcanoff, Manager of Non-Medical Services at Connecticut Children's and SINA Board Member. "They don't usually get to see the neighborhood the way they got to see it on the Day of Caring."

SINA helped arrange for the event by identifying local community-serving organizations that could most benefit from a dedicated day of volunteer labor. "Many employees from our member institutions don't know what SINA does," said Balcanoff. "As employees working in the area, we all have a vested interest in the neighborhood. SINA is an organization that takes care of this vested interest."

More than 40 volunteers from Connecticut Children's participated – dividing their efforts between beautifying Pope Park and assisting a local family with some much-needed home repairs. Donning raincoats and rubber boots, the group at Pope Park dug right in, moving mulch, removing litter and pulling weeds. Their 25 pairs of motivated hands accomplished a tremendous amount of work.

Other CT Children's employees joined the effort of Rebuilding Together Hartford, an organization that helps address the immediate home repair needs of low-income Hartford homeowners.

Employees from Hartford Hospital helped at the offices of local nonprofit Hartford Areas Rally Together (HART). The floor to ceiling windows at the street level office face the sidewalk, and with the thorough cleaning provided by the volunteers, HART had a gleaming façade for the neighborhood passersby to see.

"It's great to have something done that you can't do yourself," said Marilyn Rossetti, Executive Director, HART. "The Day of Caring works on many levels. We are a small nonprofit, and the volunteers are from a big institution just down the street. We both work in the neighborhood, but don't often interact. This day gave us a chance to put a face to each organization – for HART and for Hartford Hospital."



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2010 is a year of new beginnings. A new 10-year period that requires an introspective review of what and how we operate; how we serve our community. SINA will undertake the review and analysis of its work over the recent past to adjust its programming going forward. We'll make certain to integrate the goals of our member organizations into the plan. By listening carefully to executives from the institutions SINA will be able to coordinate available institutional resources in order to best provide for housing, economic development, safety, and educational services.

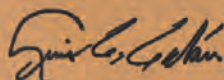
This period of a developing new economic paradigm has necessitated a restructuring of SINA staff responsibilities. The changes at SINA are part of our constant adaptation to political and socio-economic challenges. Being nimble has kept us vital and a living model for similar institutions.

Speaking of progressive changes, we welcome a new board member from Hartford Hospital, Bimal Patel. We're looking forward to working with this new member. He is both new to SINA and new to the hospital. So, it's a chance for us to grow together and an opportunity for Bimel to learn about the hospital's surrounding neighborhood and how he may be involved in the community right from the start.

We at SINA want to also take this opportunity to thank Bobby McNeil and Benjamin Diaz for their leadership during their distinguished service as board members. We also look forward to continue working with Ben on SINA's REACH committee.

The end of 2009 and the start of this year have given us much to crow about as you'll see in the pages of this newsletter. We're grateful for Trinity's trio of interns, the commitment from our institutions during the Day of Caring and of course we will be forever appreciative of "El Monumento a la Familia Puertorriqueña," (Monument to the Puerto Rican Family) created by Puerto Rican sculptor José Buscaglia-Guillermety.

Now we're most excited about what's to come in 2010 with a new SINA Homeowner's Association, Science Education initiatives and School Street construction projects. Stay tuned as we continue to find ways to make Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance a tool for the advancement of our neighborhood.



Introducing SINA's newest Board Member



Bimal M. Patel
Vice President of Support Services
Hartford Hospital

Joining the SINA Board this year is Bimal M. Patel. As Vice President for Support Services, Patel oversees various services within Hartford Hospital, including engineering and facilities, environmental services, food and nutrition, Hartford Hospital laboratories, laundry, patient support, pharmacy, radiology and security. Mr. Patel leads an operating division of approximately 2,000 employees. Mr. Patel began his career as a pharmacist. He holds a bachelor's degree from L.M. College of Pharmacy in India and a master's degree in Healthcare Administration from Penn State University in Harrisburg, PA. Patel said recently he could not be more thrilled to participate as a board member with such a serving organization.

Trinity Three Make a Difference



"They're wonderful, marvelous, spectacular!" said David Corrigan, chair of the Frog Hollow NRZ, commending the Trinity interns who have been helping the NRZ in its community revitalization effort. In

the fall of 2009, the NRZ, in partnership with SINA, launched a new internship program designed to benefit both the students and the community.

The internship program received immediate response from Trinity and two interns were chosen in the fall of 2009: Courteney Coyne, studying education, and Annie Hobor, an exchange student interested in property management. More recently, in January 2010, Brenna Spingler, an environmental studies student, joined the internship.

As "Clerks of the Committee" the three interns bring time and energy to important but time-consuming tasks, often difficult for the all-volunteer committee to expedite.

"Their efforts allow us to contend with problem properties more thoroughly than we have in the past," said Corrigan. "What better outlet for Trinity students than to be out in the neighborhood putting their interest and education into action, and learning hands-on by helping their community," said Luis Caban, SINA's executive director. Having had interns in the past, SINA brings experience and administration to the internship program. "Because we are a body of volunteers, we couldn't do it without SINA," said Corrigan.

A Monumental Day

Hartford Public Schools 19th Annual Citywide Science Fair

Science Fair: Tuesday, May 20 at the Sport and Medical Science Academy
Awards Ceremony: May 27 at the CT Science Center

Spring is here and inquiring minds are in bloom all over Hartford as students prepare for the 19th Annual Citywide Science Fair. As a co-sponsor of the Science Fair, SINA is preparing too - providing logistical, financial, and peoplepower support to empower an event that aligns with its REACH committee's focus on education and community recognition. As part of its contribution to the Science Fair and to science learning in general, SINA reaches out to its member institutions to recruit judges and Science Role Models, a new program that encourages science-minded employees to share their interests and experiences with science classes at Hartford public schools.

Are you interested in becoming a Science Role Model ?

Reach out to the community and inspire the next generation of doctors, chemists, and ecologists. SINA's REACH Committee is developing a program to encourage and excite children about science. This spring the Science Role Model program is helping prepare students for the Hartford Public Schools Annual Citywide Science Fair, but science inspiration is needed all year long!

SINA is currently looking for Science Role Model volunteers to share their experience on how science affected their life or career. Topics may include:

How do you use science in your everyday life?

- The role science plays in your career.
- What was your involvement in science fairs as a student?
- How to envision and create a successful science fair project.

Please join SINA to provide kids with opportunities to see a different side of science, beyond the textbook. A couple of hours of your day can make a big difference in a child's life. A science background is not necessary, but a passion for science is a must!

This year, volunteers will share with science classes at McDonough School. Please contact Ivette Quiros (860 493 – 1618) for a list of available dates and times.



It was a monumental day for Hartford's Puerto Rican families. On September 23, 2009, a new monument was unveiled at the Learning Corridor – an impressive sculpture celebrating the contributions of Puerto Rico's migrant families to the United States of America.

Mayor Eddie Perez, students from nearby Betances and Sanchez elementary schools, the sculptor, and members of the community at-large came together to dedicate the new monument, which stands proudly on land dedicated to learning and the advancement of the people of Hartford.

The idea for “El Monumento a la Familia Puertorriqueña,” (Monument to the Puerto Rican Family) was originally brought to SINA more than a decade ago. With SINA's support, the Organización de Puertorriqueños Unidos facilitated the project, commissioning internationally renowned Puerto Rican sculptor José Buscaglia-Guillermety for the work.

Once complete, the eight by ten foot 4000 pound piece needed an appropriate home. SINA organized a monument committee and worked with the artist to find a fitting location and the Learning Corridor campus, at the corner of Vernon and Washington Streets, was chosen. The committee planned for the dedication to occur in September, as part of Hispanic Heritage month – when several significant Latino anniversaries occur, including “El Grito De Lares” of 1868, an event similar to America's Boston Tea Party, celebrating Puerto Rico's quest for freedom from Spanish oppression.

At the dedication ceremony, CT Lieutenant Governor Michael Fedele read Governor Rell's proclamation and the Mayor personally provided one from the City. SINA's Executive Director Luis C. Cabán recognized the visionary who came up with the idea for the monument,

Mildred Torres Soto. “We will be eternally thankful for her leadership.” The monument itself features a family with children carrying the Lamb of God, the heraldic and official symbol of Puerto Rico, with an inscription that reads: *HONORING THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE PUERTO RICAN FAMILIES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.*

The back of the monument contains the Puerto Rican flag in full color and the names of all the towns in Puerto Rico. José Buscaglia-Guillermety is known for his sculptures of famous people including Roberto Clemente, Robert Frost, John F. Kennedy and Susan B. Anthony.

Cityscape Homes Update

With warmer weather right around the corner, SINA is moving forward on its four new Cityscape Homes on School Street. The lots have been cleared and construction is underway. Already, one of the four two-family houses is complete and the others will be finished in the coming weeks. Are you looking for a home in a diverse, vibrant and developing neighborhood? You can become a homeowner with built-in rental income. Contact SINA (860 493 – 1618) if you are interested in purchasing one of these brand new properties.



SOUTHSIDE INSTITUTIONS
NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE

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Hartford, CT 06106

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Feeling Good About the Neighborhood



In preparation for launching a new SINA Homeowner's Association, SINA organized a special focus group to find out what residents of SINA homes and apartments think about the neighborhood today. Their overall impression: refreshingly optimistic!

Those who had lived in the community for years noted dramatic improvements in safety and quality of life. The group lauded the Learning Corridor for reducing crime and illegal activity, and they noted a positive increase in police presence, especially with the local police substations on Affleck Street and on Maple Avenue.

Looking ahead, the participants hoped to see safety concerns continue to be addressed, as well as more recreational opportunities for teenagers and adults, upkeep of homes, job opportunities and snow/leaf removal. Dr. James J. Hughes, PhD., Associate Director of Institutional Research & Planning at Trinity College, led the focus group and SINA's Executive Director Luis Caban served as translator.

“In order to improve the neighborhood, we often have to focus on problems and concerns, and how to fix them,” said Caban. “It was encouraging to hear so much positivity from people who live in the neighborhood; that they feel good about it and about the improvements that have already been made.”

SINA's mission is to work cooperatively with the community to develop leadership and improve the economic, physical and social characteristics of Hartford's Frog Hollow, Barry Square and South Green Neighborhoods.

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