



SOUTHSIDE INSTITUTIONS
NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE
207 Washington Street
Hartford, CT 06106

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Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance

SINA Reports

Winter 2013

SINA Student Support Scholarship



The REACH Committee consists of representatives from SINA and its member institutions. Its purpose is to recognize and celebrate on an annual basis the notable achievements of community members, high school students, and employees of the member institutions.

The REACH Committee added a new scholarship, the SINA Student Support Scholarship, to be bestowed during the 2013 annual awards ceremony. This scholarship is for students from SINA's target areas who are continuing with their higher education. One to four scholarships in the combined amount of \$2,000 will be awarded annually to students attending Capital Community College (CCC), on a full or part time basis. For the 2012-2013 academic year the scholarships were awarded to Carla C. Williams, Robert Soto, Christina James and Jack Silva.

To be eligible for a SINA Student Support Scholarship, a student must live in the 06106 or 06114 zip codes and major in Health Care or Education at Capital Community College. The student must have been enrolled in the school for at least one semester and achieved an overall grade point average of at least 2.0.

REACH Neighborhood Service Awards Application Now Online



The Neighborhood Service Awards recognize individuals in the community and employees of SINA Institutions who go beyond the call of duty to promote community service in Hartford. Agencies can nominate their own board members, volunteers, or community residents. The 2012 recipients were Nilda Fernandez, Rosa Plaza, and Gary and Karen O'Maxfield.

To learn more about the nomination process, please visit <http://www.sinainc.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/NSA-application.pdf>

SINA Celebrates 2012

2012 was a year of change and growth for Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance (SINA). We continued to work cooperatively with the community to improve Hartford's southside neighborhoods by developing new affordable housing projects and creating new partnerships and collaborations to bring in new resources. After a six month search during which we clarified our values and refined our vision for the community, we hired a new executive director, Melvyn Colón.

Key to neighborhood improvement was the development of affordable housing. 2012 brought the completion of ten one-family homes on Colonial Street and the start of a two building rehabilitation on Wolcott Street. The Colonial Street units are now available to first-time homebuyers. The Wolcott Street properties, which will provide first-time homebuyers with a unit for their family as well as a rental unit, will be available for sale in the spring of 2013.

Our commitment to recognizing academic achievement continued with the sponsorship of the 21st Annual Citywide Science Fair. On May 29, we recognized the accomplishments of Hartford residents at the 6th Annual REACH Awards ceremony, presenting four Academic Scholarships, three Neighborhood Service Awards and an Institutional Award.

The most significant change of 2012 was the transition of Executive Directors. We bid farewell to retiring Executive Director, Luis Cabán and welcomed Melvyn Colón. SINA was ably managed during the transition between executive directors thanks to the commitment of its board and especially its executive committee and the work of Interim Executive Director, Cathy Cohen. The members of the executive committee are Jane Baird, President of the Board, Paul Mutone, Treasurer and Yvette Melendez, Secretary.

Hartford Homeownership Incentive Program (HIP)



In May 2012 the MetroHartford Alliance unveiled The Homeownership Incentive Program to provide financial incentives to employees of the largest Hartford businesses and institutions who purchase a home in Hartford.

SINA Member Hartford Hospital launched HIP by offering five \$10,000 grants to their employees who aspire to become first-time homebuyers. Awards to qualified applicants are given out on a first-come, first-served basis. The grant is totally forgiven after five years of continued occupancy in the purchased home and employment with the member institution. SINA will work with Trinity College and the CT Children's Medical Center to launch similar programs.

"The Alliance is delighted to launch the Hartford Homeownership Incentive Program," said Oz Griebel, President and CEO of MetroHartford Alliance. "That underscores the private sector's commitment to strengthening homeownership, a critical component of residential engagement in all aspects of a vibrant city."

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.

Executive Director: *Melvyn Colón*

Office Manager: *Ivette Quiros*

Fiscal Officer: *Keith Hedman*

Internet & Graphic Arts Assistant: *Linda Valentin*

Real Estate Development Director: *Dean Iaiennaro*

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Holiday Gathering

To celebrate the accomplishments of the year, the SINA Board and staff hosted a holiday gathering. Held at the SINA office on December 20, the event gave the SINA Board and staff an opportunity to socialize with the community and introduce the neighborhood to new Executive Director Melvyn Colón.

Health and Wellness Spotlight: Bullying and Mean Behavior in Schools (Part 1 of 2)

Kevin Borrup: Associate Director, Injury Prevention Center Connecticut Children's Medical Center

Many parents are apprehensive about sending children to school for fear that their child may be treated unfairly, teased, socially isolated, physically threatened or assaulted. In a recent survey, 30% of children report being involved in bullying behaviors, as either the target, the bully or both.

There are several tools parents can employ to ease their anxiety:

If your child tells you that kids are being mean to them or others:

- Ask what the teacher is doing about it.
- If the teacher is addressing it, you may want to call or send an email to let them know that you appreciate their response.

If adults in the school are missing or ignoring bad behaviors:

- Contact your child's teacher.
- Talk with the teacher about what your child reported, with the understanding that what your child perceived may not be true or accurate. You may find out that your child was the one being mean.
- Agree on a plan of action and check in with each other about the bad behavior.
- If your child continues to be targeted you may want to file a written complaint with the school.

Work on basic social skills:

- For younger children, practice sharing toys and taking turns, and how to join a game that is being played by other children.
- For older children, practice telling someone to stop their mean or bad behavior. Act out the situation, being assertive.

Help your child to identify allies at school:

- Friends can support each other in class, on the playground, in the cafeteria and on the bus.
- Have the name of one adult in their school whom they trust, whom they can rely on, and who likes them.
- Having a trusted adult can make a big difference for a child who is having trouble.

Keep the lines of communication open with your child.

- Ask about your child's day, see what they are doing for homework, ask them to name the kids they like the most and why.
- Ask them where they feel safest at school and where they feel least safe. (Lightly supervised areas like playgrounds, hallways, bathrooms, and buses get named as less safe than classrooms.)
- Maintaining a dialogue will help a parent to know when something is wrong.

We all want schools to be a safe place where no child is the target of mean, cruel or harassing behaviors. Together, adults can be a powerful force in ensuring that all kids feel safe at school.

For general information on bullying and what parents can do, go to www.stopbullying.gov.

For information specific to the State of Connecticut, go to the Department of Education's website at www.sde.ct.gov and click "Bullying and Harassment" under Quick Links.

Wolcott Street Development



Two Civil War-era buildings on Wolcott Street, listed on the National Registry of Historic Places, are getting new life thanks to a group of concerned and responsive funders: the City of Hartford Neighborhood Stabilization Program, Connecticut Light and Power, and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation. In order to preserve the architectural heritage of the buildings, the façades will be restored to their original form while interiors will be repaired and updated. The design has been approved by the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism.

SINA contracted Gary de Wolf Architects following a successful partnership in the construction of the homes on Colonial Street and other projects in Hartford's southside. De Wolf has done the design work for the project and is coordinating the construction to ensure historical accuracy.

"It's an interesting building, dating back to the beginning of the Civil War, with multiple modifications throughout the years," de Wolf said.

Gary de Wolf Architects has a positive track record with historical renovations

in New Haven, Branford, Meriden, and Norwalk. With this experience comes the knowledge of state, local, and national historical registry requirements.

"During the years around the Civil war, Hartford went through a construction boom," said Tomas Nenortas, Associate Director, Hartford Preservation Alliance. "It is homage to that prosperous era to bring these houses back to their Civil War era appearance."

The challenge came from the lack of both interior and exterior details. "We researched the time period, the types of buildings of the era," said de Wolf. "Luckily there were some buildings from the time period just down the street and we were able to glean some details from them."

Construction started in November and will be complete in Spring 2013. The renovated buildings will house four two-family homes. The homes will be available to first-time homebuyers who earn less than 80% of the median area income (about \$64,400 for a family of 4).

Prospective buyers should contact our realtor, Lesbia Hernandez, (860) 209-4895.

SINA Develops Hartford Performs Website



As part of SINA's Community Partners Back Office Program, SINA's Internet and Graphic Arts Assistant, Linda Valentin, designed and developed the Hartford Performs website. Hartford Performs is an arts education collaborative serving Hartford Public Schools. Their mission is to ensure that all Hartford Public School students have access to quality arts education delivered in partnership with the City's vibrant arts community.

Website design began in March 2012 and was completed in September. The page can be viewed at www.hartfordperforms.org. To learn more about Hartford Performs, please call (860) 695-4318.

3rd Annual Holiday Toy Drive



On Thursday, December 6, SINA joined State Farm, Univision, Hartford Hospital, Trinity College, and "El Show de Analeh" to celebrate "Analeh Celebrando Nuestro Pueblo 3rd Annual Holiday Toy Drive" at the Hartford Hospital Education and Resource Center.

The evening's theme was "Health and Wellness" and featured a presentation of "Revolución de Nutrición" hosted by Ana Alfaro and produced by Capital Community College.

Performances included Latin Jazz by Estaban Arruffatt, the Mariachi Academy of Connecticut Children's Band and a performance by "Certified Laugh Leader" Trevor Smith.

Guests brought unwrapped toys for children and gift cards for teenagers. These gifts went to the Boys and Girls Club of Holyoke, CT, Connecticut Children's Pediatric and Youth HIV Programs, CRT Generations Grandparents Housing, and Spanish Community of Wallingford.