



Meet Logan Singerman

Our newest staff member, Logan Singerman, originally connected with SINA through his volunteer work at Know Thy Neighbor, which brings together community members, houses of worship, and the Hartford fire and police departments to carry out projects that address residents' concerns. He says of his job at SINA, "I was offered the chance to be paid to do something I was doing for free, so I jumped at the opportunity. Every day I get to meet and learn from people who inspire me, and who want to make a better world."

Logan has a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministries from Messiah College in Pennsylvania and has been a youth minister in Wethersfield. Logan was an AmeriCorps/VISTA volunteer, most recently with the North Hartford Promise Zone. In addition to his work at SINA, Logan is the Director of Outreach Ministries at Center Church in Hartford.

His SINA work with the SAFE team (see article below) keeps him busy, but Logan's role also involves meeting one on one with residents and community partners, knocking on doors and working with volunteer groups like Youth Service Corps. During one week in April, YSC logged 280 volunteer hours and collected 110 bags of trash. "I thoroughly enjoy connecting people with one another, helping them dream of what could be, and then making it a reality," says Logan, who looks forward to meeting more neighbors over the next few months.



SAFER This Summer

SINA's Logan Singerman has been hard at work with a team of volunteers to ensure our neighborhoods are safer, cleaner and more attractive than ever this summer. The group is called Safety Alliance for Everyone, or SAFE. It is a collaboration between SINA, neighborhood volunteers and organizations like Hartford Fire Explorers, Police Explorers, COMPASS Youth and Our Piece of the Pie, plus students from Burns, Bulkeley, Hartford Public, Trinity and UConn Hartford.

SAFE activities kicked off with a Clean-up Competition and BBQ on April 28, with additional clean-ups on the last Saturday of each month. The May 26 clean-up is a week before the Puerto Rican Parade, so Logan hopes to get many local businesses involved. The June 30 clean-up is a week after the LatinoFest, where SINA will have a table to recruit people who might want to participate. The final clean-up will be July 28, after which volunteers will celebrate with a National Night Out softball game at Pope Park on August 7.



SOUTH SIDE INSTITUTIONS
NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE
207 Washington Street
Hartford, CT 06106

About SINA

Since its founding in 1977 SINA has worked with community organizations on issues such as affordable rental housing, education, public safety, homeownership and commercial development. With dozens of apartment units rehabilitated, homeownership programs, and the opening of The Learning Corridor, its visible impact in the Frog Hollow, Barry Square and South Green neighborhoods has been significant and its community involvement has been a constant presence. SINA continues operations today in offices at 207 Washington Street. For more information call (860) 493-1618 or visit sinainc.org.

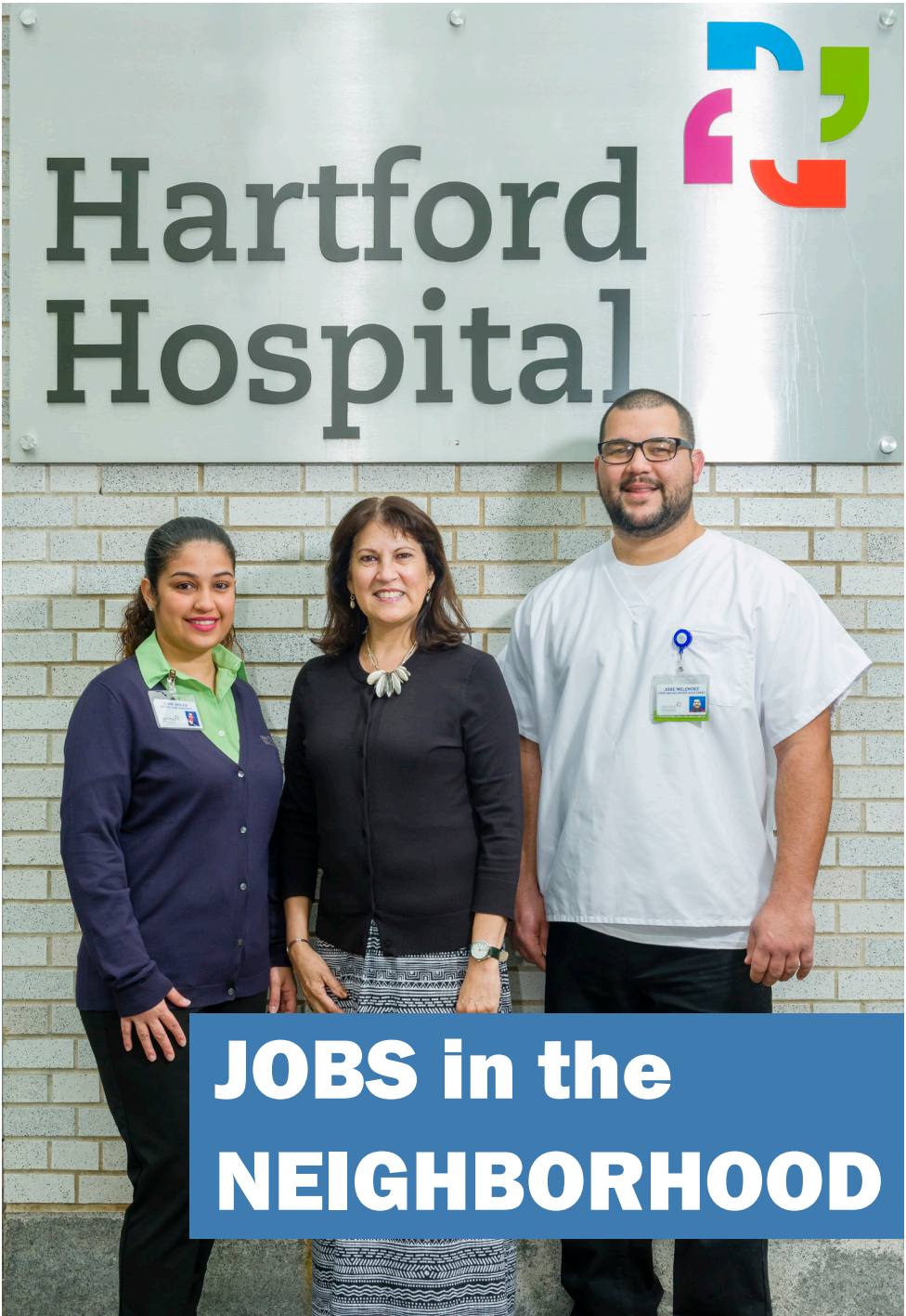


From Our Executive Director, Melvyn Colon

We are delighted to report progress on several fronts so far this year and are excited about the possibilities afoot. A significant new grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is enhancing our efforts to help south end residents find jobs. Our public safety program is in full swing, engaging residents and organizational partners in neighborhood clean-ups and other community building efforts. And of course we've made great progress on our housing initiatives. Read on to learn more!



www.sinainc.org



JOB*S* in the NEIGHBORHOOD

SINA is a partnership between Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Hartford Hospital and Trinity College. SINA's mission is to restore economic vitality and improve the quality of life for the people who live, work, play, and study in the neighborhoods of South Hartford.



Jobs in the Neighborhood



Elsa Huertas with client

Elsa Huertas joined SINA last year as Career Navigator, supporting economic development efforts by managing programs to help south end residents find jobs. The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving awarded a three-year, \$302,000 grant to support the new SINA Institutions Hiring Program, or SIHP, which Elsa manages. It matches south end residents with jobs available at SINA’s anchor institutions – Hartford Hospital, CT Children’s Medical Center and Trinity College.

According to the Hartford Foundation, there are more than 100,000 jobs in the city of Hartford, yet Hartford residents hold fewer than 17 percent of those jobs. “Despite a range of workforce preparedness programs in Hartford, unemployment rates in south-central Hartford exceed both the national average and the city average,” explains Elsa. “Our research indicates that many jobs in the city’s south end require only a high school diploma or less.” SINA Executive Director Melvyn Colon adds “the innovative aspect of this program is to introduce a place-based approach to meeting institutional labor demand, so the hiring practices of our anchor institutions can promote community economic development.”

Through SIHP, Elsa manages a “Collective Impact Partnership” comprising many organizations that provide workforce preparedness programs. These include Literacy Volunteers of Greater Hartford, Center for Latino Progress, Our Piece of the Pie, Capitol Workforce Partners, Capital Region Education Council, Billings Forge and Central Area Health Education Center. The partners will provide a wide range of services to help identify, train and place workers in jobs at SINA member institutions.

While SIHP is only two months old, it already has success stories. Elsa reports that “two neighborhood residents have been placed in jobs, another received a scholarship to obtain a certificate in procurement management, and a student has a new paid internship.”

When Jose Melendez and Elsie Ingles moved to Hartford from Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria, they were looking for employment. A neighbor on Ward Street told them to go to SINA, where they met with Elsa. They both speak English and have solid work experience at hospitals. The couple met with Elsa several times, visiting the Hartford Hospital career website, identifying needed references, revising their resumes and conducting mock interviews. They were thoroughly prepared to apply for and win positions at Hartford Hospital. Last month, Jose started his new job in Food and Nutrition Services. This month, Elsie begins TWO jobs at Hartford Hospital - as a Patient Care Assistant in Bone and Joint, and as a Patient Administrative Assistant! Congratulations to Jose and Elsie!

Naomi is a junior at University High School who was referred to SINA by Center for Latino Progress, one of our partners. She simultaneously attends high school and University of Hartford, where she takes psychology classes, and was thus interested in work that would provide related experience. Elsa spoke with contacts at CT Children’s Medical Center about opportunities, and learned about a position as a volunteer in the Emergency Room. CLP will provide a paid internship while Naomi volunteers at CCMC, a win-win for all!

Susan Pleasant, a job candidate with over 12 years of experience in procurement management, lacks a Project Management Profession certification to help her compete in today’s market. Elsa reached out to Capitol Workforce Partners to inquire about training funds. They were able to assist with a scholarship, enabling Susan to start the PMP course at Central Connecticut State University this month!

Services that SINA’s Collective Impact Partnership provides through SIHP include literacy testing, career counseling, food services training, math classes, English as a Second Language classes, job readiness training, digital literacy and job certifications. Any Hartford resident who lives in zip codes 06106 or 06114, and is over the age of 18, may be eligible. People interested in the program are welcome to contact Elsa at 860-493-1618, or any of the program partners to learn more.



Sun and Sugar

The first thing you notice upon entering Sol de Borinquen is the heavenly smell of fresh baked goods. It’s a busy place, but waiting on the line snaking along the counter gives you time to stare in amazement at the variety of goodies as you try to choose.

Puerto Rican specialties like budín, mallorcas, pastelillos de guayaba (guava pastries), red donuts (dense and sugar sprinkled), arroz con dulce (rice pudding) and tembleque (cinnamon coconut pudding) are on offer. There are also a wide variety of cakes, flans, fruit-topped cheesecakes and a delicious pan queso. At lunch, arrive hungry for their meaty sandwiches of ham, turkey, beef and pernil, a slow-cooked pork.

The bakery has been owned by Freddie Ortiz since 1998 and is located at 711 Park Street in Hartford. Its hours are 4 am to 7:30 pm from Monday through Saturday, and 5 am to 6 pm on Sunday.



New Homes Coming!

Many supporters and neighbors turned out for SINA’s groundbreaking on Wolcott Street last fall, when we celebrated the start of Cityscape VI, which will add 12 houses to the city’s tax rolls. Mayor Bronin, Senator Fonfara, Hartford Hospital President Bimal Patel, Trinity College President Joanne Berger-Sweeney, and Jane Baird of Connecticut’s Children’s Medical Center, who is SINA’s board chair, welcomed the crowd.

They spoke of the benefits the project will bring, and the excitement of adding to the 60+ homes SINA has already developed in the neighborhood. Cityscape VI will improve public safety by rehabilitating a dozen blighted properties, and will provide high quality Energy Star 3.5 homes for more than 20 families. Most of the homes will feature a rental unit to help the owner defray costs. Construction started immediately, and homes will be added throughout 2018.

Steve Jayne, Project Manager for Millennium Real Estate Services, is working with SINA to create Cityscape VI. He reports “we’ve completed the environmental abatement for one house that is an historical rehab on Wolcott Street. We also have the wood framing, roofs, doors and windows done for two buildings on Wolcott Street that will be historically accurate new construction. Interior walls, plumbing and electrical are being installed, and exterior siding will follow. We expect to have those buildings completed this summer.”

Cityscape VI also includes new buildings being constructed on three adjacent, formerly blighted lots on Brownell Street. Steve says progress is being made there, too. Wood framing was completed on one house, with doors, windows and roofs to come next. The foundation is ready to be poured for a second building, and the third will follow shortly. Neighbors are pleased the blighted properties and vacant lots will be replaced by new homes this summer, and the city is glad to have houses back on the tax rolls.