

- **Vision:** Through programs, advocacy and healthy activities, we will play a key role in keeping our neighboring communities stable and attractive as great places to live and work.
- **Mission:** To empower residents and neighborhoods to become self-sufficient through advocacy, organizing and services for the betterment of Hartford.



BHCA

BLUE HILLS CIVIC
ASSOCIATION

HERE TO SERVE, STRENGTHEN AND STABILIZE THE COMMUNITY

Let's Build Together!

Any organization, whether for-profit or not-for-profit, doesn't endure for over 50 years without a track record of cooperation and connection. Blue Hills Civic Association has nurtured productive relationships since 1962 by working with others to build a stronger community in Hartford.

Over the past year we have continued that legacy with programs that draw strength and funding from partners around the capital region. We believe that by working together we can build and enhance our neighborhood by focusing on education, recreation and youth development.

Oniel Rowe, sophomore, mechanical engineering major at Central CT State University. Over the years Oniel has participated in our Slight Edge, SYELP and College Internship Initiative programs. "They've kept me focused on my goals and given me exposure to corporate America. It's helped me build my networks in engineering. Without the College Internship Initiative I never would have had that opportunity." This year he interned in the Information Technology department at The Hartford.



*BHCA staff,
front row, left to right.*

Silvia Noriega
Denise Best
Lee Hunt
Vicki Gallon-Clark
Maurice Robertson

Back row, left to right.

Serita McBride
Lourdes Fonseca
Quishema Jones
Ajia Wells
Gabriel Boyd
Reneesha Thompson
Sashuana Stewart



Education

Rawson School

This year we began working with partners to revitalize the Sarah J. Rawson School on Holcomb Street as part of a three-year plan funded by a \$2.25 million Lighthouse Grant from the State Department of Education. By partnering with the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA), the University of Hartford, The Connecticut Science Center, Connecticut Pre- Engineering Program and Hartford Public Schools, we are enhancing the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) curriculum for Pre K-8th grade students. The BHCA-sponsored after school enrichment program provides Rawson 7th and 8th graders with life skills immersion, career competency training and post-secondary planning workshops. The after-school program is designed to allow youth to develop real world skills to aid them in their successful matriculation to high school. The BHCA staff facilitates activities that allow students to be active participants in their learning and embrace the passion to be lifelong learners. Our program served **70 students** by collecting report cards

and monitoring school attendance, as well as administering pre- and post-assessments to measure increases in student's knowledge, attitude, healthy eating habits and behavior while in program. Students and parents who participated in the program will be provided with wraparound service referrals and a network of therapeutic support service referrals to address family needs.

Weaver High School

In April we invited Hartford's mayor and mayoral candidates, along with our city councilors and statehouse delegation, to a rally at Weaver High to explore how to build a better neighborhood. During the event we exhibited plans for Weaver's extensive renovations and raised funds to support the *Capital City Track Club* and the *Hartford Proud Drill, Drum and Dance Team*. This is just one way we engage parents and the community to keep them informed and involved in Weaver's transformation.

Moneque Beckford, junior, psychology/pastoral ministry major at Lee University. Moneque has participated in a variety of BHCA programs since her sophomore year of high school. She has been inspired by an internship at Hartford Hospital's kidney transplant unit. "I saw how they care for people and it made me more passionate about taking care of others." She says the BHCA programs have been a big help with time management skills, interviewing and public speaking. "They keep in touch to see if things are on track."

Recreational Resources

Recognizing that recreational resources are closely tied to the positive impact of education, we commissioned a survey, conducted by the students in our Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program (SYELP), of **300** neighborhood homes. By asking about their recreation interests, we discovered "what, where, and how many" recreation opportunities they would like to see in their neighborhood. We then reported the results to a committee that included Hartford Public Schools, University of Hartford, Hartford Housing Authority, the City's Departments of Planning and Zoning and Children, Families and Youth; Oak Hill, St. Francis HealthCare, the Boys & Girls Club and the YMCA. As a result, we have commissioned a consultant to conduct a more in-depth study to determine a facility's location, preferred programs and associated costs.



Financials

June 30, 2015

Assets:

Cash and cash equivalents	\$	97,002
Grants and other receivables		191,159
Prepaid expenses		9,981
Deposits		5,000
Property and equipment, net		6,576
Total assets	\$	309,718

Liabilities:

Accounts payable	\$	51,835
Accrued expenses		37,413
Lines of credit		-
Total liabilities	\$	89,248

Net Assets:

Unrestricted		142,045
Temporarily restricted		78,425
Total net assets		220,470

Total liabilities and net assets **\$ 309,718**

Youth Development

Youth Violence Prevention Program

Working in partnership with the Connecticut Center for Nonviolence (CTCN) and funded by the State of Connecticut's Court Support Services Division, this program served **50** youth ages 13 to 18 living in Hartford and attending public schools. The program provides life skills education, leadership training, community service credits, parent engagement activities, career competencies training, and 52 hours of nationally certified Kingian Nonviolence Training each year.

MACH Healthy Futures Initiative

The Metro Hartford Alliance for Careers in Health Care (MACH) Healthy Futures Initiative is a comprehensive development program designed to work with **45** participants between the ages of 18 and 24 who hold a CNA certificate. It helped them secure part-time, entry-level work while supporting their pursuit of higher education to move up the career ladder towards middle-skilled healthcare careers and self-sustaining wages.

Chevonise Taylor, junior, finance major at Eastern CT State University. This Hartford resident says the CII has helped her throughout the year by offering group meetings and mentoring. "It has helped me understand the typical distractions of college, and to set goals and stay focused on them." She is exploring a career as a financial analyst.



Blue Hills Employment Skills Training

The BHEST program is designed to work with older youth between the ages of 17 to 24 to provide occupational skills training in Allied Health. This program introduced **25** participants to the "Eight Career Competencies" concept and helped them to master these skills. A key factor in the success of the program stems from mentoring and coaching provided by the BHEST staff and BHCA staff and volunteers.

College and Career Connections

This is the fourth year BHCA has partnered with the Hartford Public Schools to operate the College and Career Connections program. This in-school program focuses on youth career building and college readiness. This year **25** students from the following schools participated in the program: Hartford Culinary Arts Academy, Journalism & Media Academy, High School Inc., Law and Government and Green Technology at Hartford Public High School.



Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program (SYELP)

SYELP is a seasonal program funded through a grant from Capital Workforce Partners that offers in-depth, job-readiness training for students ranging from ages 14 to 19. During the program's five weeks, students are paid for their participation and develop skills from classroom-based training and hands-on internship experiences. This year we served over **500** teens from the Hartford County area, providing opportunities for participants to build competencies in the areas of job readiness, customer service, basic skills, interpersonal communication, computer literacy, personal qualities, problem solving and decision-making, and financial literacy. The earnings are a constructive way to teach the value of study and work.

Check It

This program, in partnership with African Caribbean American Parents of Children with Disabilities (AFCAMP), served **25** teens from ages 14 to 18 and their families by engaging them through community service and civic engagement experience. Its goals are to improve the quality of life in the city and educate and engage students and their parents through 60 hours of community service; youth and parent engagement activities/workshops; and family workshops that include hot meals. Check-It is funded through the City of Hartford Department of Families, Children, Youth and Recreation, Division of Youth (DFCYR).

College Internship Initiative

This initiative, funded by State Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), works to retain the talent of college students and graduates in Connecticut and the Hartford region. By mentoring college students and placing them in internships, CII helps employers build and retain a diverse workforce of talented millennials while opening a doorway into the corporate world for students.

This CII year we achieved the following results:

- We placed a total of **40** students into internships during the summer that correlated with their career goals. This is a **60%** increase in students served.
- We established **partnerships** with "new" employers that expanded our internship base, such as The Hartford, CT Public Broadcasting Networking, Community Health Services, and the Urban Alliance.
- **Fifty percent** of our students completed an internship in a healthcare field, meeting one of our key objectives.
- **Each student** met with our Academic Success coach and created goals for this college semester.
- We identified, and put in place, the career-competency **workshops** that will be provided to our students during the college breaks in November and December.

Our Community

Lee Hunt,
Executive Director



MDC Clean Water Project

For the past four years the BHCA outreach staff has facilitated all of the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) Clean Water Project's access to the **255** homes involved. We were responsible for negotiating the signing of permission affidavits to enter all properties; organizing outreach meetings to inform the neighborhood of construction plans; implementing goals and fulfilling the timeline for completion of the project; and most importantly, overseeing the restoration of all properties and the grounds that were involved in the construction.

The outreach team began finalizing the paperwork associated with the close out of the project: securing outstanding plumbing releases, giving homeowners all photos and documentation folders associated with their property and taking note of and monitoring the few remaining restoration concerns.

North End Senior Center

Staying connected and active is an important part of physical and mental health for senior citizens, so the North End Senior Center on Coventry Street, funded by the City of Hartford, is a boon for over **550** clients who received:

- Health screenings
- Recreational activities
- Information about benefit entitlements
- Hot, nutritious lunches as well as produce from a seasonal Farmer's Market



Brian Barnett, sophomore, biological sciences/psychology major at UCONN. Brian, who aspires to be a general surgeon, has seen numerous positive role models over the years because his mother, an R.N., has introduced him to many physicians. But he has found his classes and internships at BHCA to be especially valuable in preparing him for college and the work world. "They taught me how to make a better impression, time management, and good interview skills. The staff reminds me of my commitments and goals and will check in with me to help track my studies and time management."

Our Funders

Advanced Behavioral Health
Aetna Foundation
Bank of America
Cigna Foundation
City of Hartford
Capital Workforce Partners
CT Economic Resource Center
CT Department of Economic and
Community Development
Funds for Greater Hartford
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
Lead Action for Medicaid
Primary Prevention
Larrabee Funds
The Metropolitan District Commission
North Central Area Agency on Aging
State of Connecticut
Travelers Insurance Companies

Our Board

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Joshua Hall
Derrick Robinson

Our Team

Education and Youth Development Services – Asylum Avenue

Executive Director: Lee Hunt
Vicki Gallon-Clark
Gabriel Boyd
Shawn Buchanan
Michael Hunt
Quishema Jones
Silvia Noriega
Sashauna Stewart
Reneesha Thompson
Ajia Wells

Community And Outreach Services – Albany Avenue

Denise Best
Lourdes Fonseca
Maurice Robertson

Senior Services – North End Senior Center

Karen Addiston
Janell Lewis
Cora Scrusse
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