

CHRISTIAN ACTIVITIES COUNCIL

Annual Report 2008–2009



Founded in 1851

*The urban mission arm of
churches in the United Church of
Christ and the National
Association of Congregational
Christian Churches in the Greater
Hartford metropolitan region*

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Mission Statement

Christian Activities Council

The mission and purpose of the Christian Activities Council (CAC), working in partnership with its sponsoring urban and suburban congregations, is:

- To foster the development of empowering resources for those in need;
- To promote human equality and social justice;
- And to work toward constructive reform by providing concrete, demonstrable models of compassionate engagement in the core city and the metropolitan region.



CAC Headquarters at the Mack Center on Vine Street

This mission is undergirded and informed by the faith of the Christian community and a

sensitive awareness of common regional concerns, needs and interests. By encouraging stronger ties among suburban and urban member churches and by establishing instruments and structures for lay involvement, the CAC seeks to create a practical vision of social witness, social development and social reform. The CAC is a faith-based organization that is strictly non-sectarian in its activities and programs.

President's Report

Robert A. Cushman, M.D., President

Executive Director's Report

Rev. Donald R. Steinle

I am writing this report at our “home away from home” in the Adirondack Mountains. The sun is setting, adding to the afterglow of another wonderful annual awards dinner, and it is incredibly peaceful and serene. The hustle and bustle of city life seems remote, but my mind and spirit are not far from urban realities. Much as I cherish this place, I would not want to live here. The city is my habitat. So much for the context of this report!

As I reflect on this year (and perhaps a little longer), it strikes me that an apt overall description would be “old realities encounter new expressions.” Clearly, we carry on the storied traditions and values that led a group of Congregational lay people to start this organization 158 years ago. We remain a *mission* enterprise, reaching out to those in need, especially the poor, the oppressed and the forgotten. We continue to work with and support new immigrant groups.

We are deeply rooted in the life of the church, especially the United Church of Christ and its predecessor denominations. Our concern for children and youth goes back to the early days when the organization started the first Boy Club in America, continued with summer camps at the “House in the Fields” and finds expression in our own “Adventures in the City” today. There has also been a longstanding concern for the elderly and disabled expressed by a multitude of housing developments over the past 50 years and continuing with Horace Bushnell Congregate Homes and the Zezzo House in the current era.

Finally, we remain a group that sponsors and starts institutions and programs that are often carried on by other partners while we move on to new initiatives. The purpose of the organization remains “to serve and empower the poor, while seeking social justice.”

Still there are many new expressions of our mission and ministry that have emerged in recent years. We have a new web site, and our thanks go out to Tracey Natal, Nancy Allen and Kathy Simpson, along with all those who wrote sections of the site. We are also at the tale end of an intensive and productive strategic planning process which will give us important guidance in the next several years. Thanks to Linda Campanella for her outstanding leadership in this venture.

Relatively new staff have also emerged. Ken Esposito, our congregational organizer, has carried out a first statewide effort in conjunction with the Connecticut Conference of the UCC. His work on a new priority, Universal Health Care, has born much fruit. Though our long time office manager, Candy Bordonaro, left last fall, Michelle Roberts has once again proven that no one is indispensable by performing so well in her new position. Yvonne Chandler has left to head up a new management company, Better Quality Management, but retains a close relationship with us. Damaris Whittaker has returned to give added strength to our already outstanding housing counseling program, working in conjunction with Tori Hamilton. They are quite a team! Ralph Knighton, who has been with us under a consulting contract, will become a new part-time employee starting this summer. We have also secured funding to make Shawn Holloway full time as our neighborhood organizer.

Finally, we have recently been blessed with two outstanding teams of consultants, funded by LISC, to help us strengthen our neighborhood revitalization efforts in Upper Albany, while at the same time being selected to assist the City of Hartford in implementing the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program by purchasing and rehabbing foreclosed properties in our area.

We are also facing changes in our Board of Directors. Our President Rob Cushman will be leaving that post to become vice president, with Michael Williams taking over as president. Long time secretary Tom Dean will depart, replaced by Bebe Dudley, and Suzanne Morrell will leave with Bill Gerber taking her place. Sarah Batchelder will also move on with Noel McGregor taking her place after many years of service as president of the Urban Suburban Affordables Board.

With all these changes, we also face the ongoing challenges of the economic downturn that affects us all and the collapse of the housing market that makes the sale of our Edgewood properties even more difficult.

Still, I am confident that we will meet these new challenges with faith, courage and commitment. May God be our guide.



19 Edgewood Street

Associate Director's Report

Rev. Edwin O. Ayala

This past year has been full of opportunities and challenges. As associate director, I have responded to the directives set up by our executive director, and have been responsible for the work of the Metropolitan Training Advancement Institute, outreach initiatives, interfaith initiatives and the overview of Rev. Nancy Allen as staff and leader in the 2009 Adventures in the City program. Yes, it has been hard work and yes, it has been an honor to share the gifts that God has given me with this great organization, the Christian Activities Council.

Immersion

- Six immersions to church groups
- Three immersions to agencies and community organizations in Hartford, including Hartford Hospital and St. Francis Family Medicine Residents
- Two special immersion programs in Hartford and Puerto Rico for Family Medicine residents at St. Francis Hospital

Workshops

- Three workshops related to issues of empowerment, anti-racism training and diversity training
- Substance abuse education and prevention strategies, in partnership with Latino Community Services and with Zezzo House involvement
- Nutrition education in partnership with Hispanic Health Council
- Asset mapping education and training led by Rev. Nancy Allen

Empowerment and Support

- Empowerment and support of the Asian and Brazilian community
- Twenty preaching commitments, mostly in Latino context
- Partnership and support of Center for

Conflict Transformation, Greater Hartford Coalition for Equity and Justice, and Clergy Coalitions

- Active involvement in support of Universal Health Care regionally and statewide.
- Support to New Hope Hispanic UCC Church in East Hartford

Adventures in the City

(with Rev. Nancy Allen as leader)

- Served 681 children at Milner and Sands elementary schools and Grace Lutheran and North United churches
- Extended day program at two sites
- Financial support for Milner School's after-school special program
- Five special program sites, including Heads-Up Hartford, a high school youth program

Delegated Tasks

- Supported the work of the External Relations Committee—always a great pleasure
- Owner representative at 19 Edgewood rehabilitation project
- Creative collaboration and partnership on universal health care reform, working with the Connecticut Conference UCC and the Universal Health Care Foundation of CT

We are committed to continue to collaborate with churches, laity, agencies, organizations, council and board members, and many other leaders as to empower the poor as we breakdown the barriers that sustain poverty and injustice. Together we have made a difference; together we can and will make a difference!

"SI SE PUEDE!"

Housing Ventures

Ralph Knighton, Housing Consultant

During 2008, the CAC focused on the development potential of various sites, the identification of funding sources, neighborhood stabilization and various building concepts.

We identified Lenox and Cabot Streets as the next two target blocks for housing initiatives, and we continued to negotiate with the City of Hartford to purchase vacant properties at 47 and 48 Lenox Street.

Various funding sources were identified to assist in the development of housing properties. Grant applications were prepared and submitted for 54-56 Edgewood Street to the CHFA's Housing Tax Credit Contribution Program (HTCC) which resulted in a \$500,000 award to the CAC. Other funding efforts include but are not limited to applying to HUD for housing counseling funds, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, and other programs. The CAC is also a subcontractor for the Connecticut

Children's Medical Center's "Neighborhood Healthy Homes" project funded by HUD.

It should be noted that the CAC was recognized for its housing efforts in North Hartford in the *Hartford Courant's* June 29, 2008 editorial, "A Perfect Two." Other non-profit organizations are seeking the services of the CAC, including SAND, the Hartford Housing Authority, West Hartford Housing Authority, etc.

The CAC conducted an analysis of the neighborhood housing stock and identified the location of foreclosed properties in Upper Albany, Blue Hills and parts of Clay Arsenal and Northeast neighborhoods.

Due to the foreclosure crisis the CAC participated in working groups formed by the Connecticut Housing Coalition around foreclosure issues and the implementation of HUD's Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

Horace Bushnell Congregate Homes Reverend Joseph Zizzo House Horace Bushnell Management Resources

Yvonne Deal Chandler, Executive Director, Better Quality Management

This past year has been nothing if not eventful and very, very busy!

- Horace Bushnell Congregate Homes is in the process of completing the first step in the renovation and conversion of some of its units to assisted living. Among other things, the kitchen, lobby, dining room and five first-floor units have been renovated. In February we received an additional grant to upgrade the heating and cooling systems in the building. This summer we will apply for another assisted living grant from HUD to continue the conversion.

- Reverend Joseph Zizzo House lost a couple of residents this year, but is moving

onto embrace new residents into its community. Zizzo House is presently the recipient of a grant from the City of Hartford which will place an electronic gate at the entrance to the parking lot. This will work towards our continuing effort to keep our residents safe.

- Horace Bushnell Management Resources is making a move to become a non-profit in support of resident services. The Board of Directors is studying this new endeavor in hopes of empowering communities by working with their residents one by one.

Thanks to everyone for all of their hard work in the past year!

Urban Suburban Affordables, Inc.

Damaris Whittaker (for Noel McGregor)

The American Dream Downpayment Initiative (ADDI) has come to a close. We were able to provide 22 families with downpayment and closing cost assistance.

Urban Suburban Affordables (USA) and the CAC have officially completed the merger of USA with the West Hartford Interfaith Housing Coalition. We have been working on establishing communication and creating relationships with our West Hartford homeowners.

Currently, USA has 216 ground leases or second mortgages. We are responding to

the needs of our homeowners by offering them foreclosure prevention assistance. Additionally, as homeowners struggle with the economic difficulties of our time, we are actively arranging payment plans for the ground lease fees and assisting them with debt management as requested.

Our commitment is to help homeowners retain their homes and to continue to work with them as their circumstances may change.

Church External Relations

Sara Batchelder

Our focus is to strengthen and nurture the relationships between the CAC and UCC congregations. We have kept churches informed of the ways in which the CAC can assist them to develop their social justice agendas. We encourage every church to have an active delegate who keeps the church members informed of CAC activities.

We are currently making available to individual congregations "The Power of Asset Mapping," a method by which a congregation or any organization can assess its own strengths and use them to develop their justice agenda. This is a very exciting concept, and Rev. Nancy Allen has presented the concept to several congregations.

We investigated the Mural Arts program in Philadelphia in hopes that we could

sponsor a similar program in Hartford to generate pride in the city's neighborhoods. However, we decided not to pursue this project at this time due to the current economic situation. People in the neighborhoods today are much more focused on jobs than on public art.

This year we have sponsored several immersion trips into Hartford, which give church members and others the opportunity to see Hartford through new eyes and learn about the many signs of hope that are emerging.

Our commitment is to bring the mission of the CAC to all member congregations as well as the greater community and to involve more and more people in working for social justice.

Universal Health Care Initiative

Ken Esposito, Congregational Organizer

As of May 27, 2009, when this report was written, the CT House of Representatives had overwhelmingly passed Sustinet, a complete plan for health care reform produced by the Universal Health Care Foundation of CT, and the State Senate was on the verge of debating and voting on the bill. This legislation would reform health care by creating a public option plan for affordable quality health care to CT residents.

The *Hartford Courant* called Sustinet landmark legislation that puts CT at the forefront of the national healthcare reform effort.

By the time you are reading this report, we are either celebrating the passage of this historic legislation or lamenting the fact we came so close to achieving it—and regrouping to increase our efforts to attain our goal of universal health care.

Either way, the Christian Activities Council has been a major force in generating enormous United Church of Christ participation in the Universal Health Care Foundation's statewide healthcare4every1 campaign.

Since June of 2008, CAC has continuously working with the CT Conference of the UCC and its member congregations, mobilizing their parishioners and the people in the surrounding communities. During the last 12 months, we:

- Continued ongoing one-to-one meetings with clergy and lay leadership.
- Conducted educational forums on "Health Care 4 All—A Moral Imperative" with 15 UCC congregations.
- Performed 22 health care presentations at interfaith events, community forums and professional associations including five CT parish nurse regional networks and the Bristol Hospital Clergy/Nurse Association.
- Helped coordinate the December 10 New Haven Health Care Rally, where 350 people heard public testimony from Rev. Mike Penn-Strah, a UCC regional minister, and Jonathan Weber, MA, PA-C, a UCC member.
- Coordinated the December 2 Danbury Health Care Rally, hosted by the First Congregational Church of Danbury.
- Designed and conducted workshops at the CT Conference fall and spring annual meetings.
- Participated in the January 13 Hartford Sustinet Rally, helping to gather the 1,000 attendees of the event.
- Coordinated four in-districts meetings with state senators and insured UCC clergy/parishioner participation in seven other meetings.
- Conducted a "postcard sign-up" campaign urging state senators to support Sustinet that garnished over 800 postcards from 35 of the 36 senate districts.
- Continued ongoing participation in the Interfaith Fellowship for Universal Health Care meetings and public events, including the March 5 press conference at the Capitol and the May 13 Capitol Prayer Vigil.

Long-range Planning Committee

Phil Duke, Chair

This year was a very active strategic planning period as the CAC began to develop its next five-year long range plan. In August, with the guidance of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, we began a search for a strategic planning consultant. Request for proposals were sent out. Respondents were interviewed. References were checked. SOS Consulting under the direction of Linda Campanella was selected and contracted to provide strategic planning facilitation services.

SOS Consulting collaboratively designed the planning process, which included surveys, meetings, a retreat and emails. CAC's many stakeholders including

employees, the Board, the Council, church leaders, program partners, community residents and civic leaders participated in one format or another. As the plan developed in incremental steps, SOS Consulting sought comment, feedback and clarification. The Board and Council issued approvals as the plan unfolded and approved the following vision statement and overarching goals for the new five-year plan. The implementation schedule is still a work in progress.

Kudos to all those who have given so generously of their time and effort in moving the plan's development forward.

Envisioning the Future

The Christian Activities Council in Five Years

In five years, the Christian Activities Council will have fortified its reputation as a passionate and compassionate leader singularly committed to addressing social issues affecting the urban poor. It will be more widely known and respected in the Hartford region for its work and mission. The CAC's innovative, collaborative and effective approaches to improving the daily lives of the impoverished and marginalized and to removing systemic barriers to fulfillment of basic needs and equal opportunities will have established it as a national model.

The CAC will be both a place where people of faith convene to reflect and be in dialogue about social justice issues and a catalyst for bringing faith-based organizations across denominations together to address urban issues of common concern. Acting as a voice for the voiceless and a broker of opportunity for those in need, the CAC will be addressing issues of poverty and inequality in ways that promote systemic and sustainable change.

Building on the success of its universal health care initiative, the CAC will be

engaging urban and suburban churches, as well as other supporters and collaborators, in an expanded, regional social justice ministry. Clearly articulated goals and priorities relating to pressing social justice issues in Greater Hartford will have ignited the interest of member churches, whose congregations will increasingly be a source of volunteers eager to join forces with others for collective advocacy and action.

While the goal of catalyzing positive, sustainable change at both an individual and systemic level will have taken on even greater priority for the CAC, its fundamental commitment to promoting community stabilization and neighborhood revitalization within its geographic sphere of influence will continue to be a primary focus of the Council's efforts. As a cornerstone of this community-strengthening work in a city whose homeownership rate is among the lowest in the country, the CAC will be instrumental in promoting affordable homeownership opportunities for the urban poor and for those, like the disabled and elderly, who have special needs.

The CAC will increasingly be addressing

community needs as defined by the community itself. Program focus and priorities will be determined in large part by potential to address identified community needs, to bring stability to the community, and to work with the community. The Council will be leveraging existing relationships—within the community, within city government, with churches across the region—to effect positive change. Its outcome-oriented programs will be more integrated and in synergy with each other. Urban and suburban churches will be joining forces in pursuit of common goals that reflect shared faith-based values. Increasingly members of churches both in and outside the city of Hartford will be working together, and with the CAC, to address poverty and social justice issues that afflict people throughout the region.

Physical facilities will be adequate, and staff and volunteer resources will be sufficient and appropriately trained, to fulfill the promise of CAC's mission and deliver high-quality programs and services. Board members as well as member church delegates will be passionate ambassadors for the CAC and effective advocates for its mission. A strategic marketing effort will have raised the Council's profile to potential partners and supporters, resulting in new sources for volunteers, collaborators, and funding. The CAC's financial foundation will have been bolstered by securing new, diverse and sustainable sources of operating support, and an effective planned giving program will be helping to grow the Council's endowment.

Overarching Goals and Key Strategies

Goal 1: Become an empowering presence and a catalytic force committed to addressing the ravages of poverty and improving the lives of the poor and downtrodden in Greater Hartford.

Key Strategies

- Listen more carefully and intentionally to the community, and focus more selectively on areas of highest priority to residents
- Align CAC's programmatic initiatives with its agenda for systemic change to maximize impact

- Establish mission-based strategic alliances to expand program reach and increase the number of residents whose lives improve
- Engage member churches and their congregations more effectively as partners in outreach ministries
- Increase focus on immigrants, teenagers, and young adults

Goal 2: Expand efforts to address disparities in and remove systemic barriers to housing, health care, education, and employment in the Greater Hartford region

Key Strategies

- Engage faith-based organizations in regional, urban-suburban coalitions to address social justice issues of common concern
- Focus advocacy efforts each year on one or two priority areas to create a unifying agenda that mobilizes collective action by regional churches
- Continue efforts to increase access to affordable housing and health care
- Intensify focus on public policy advocacy efforts relating to meaningful employment and safe neighborhoods
- Inspire and equip more people for social justice ministries

Goal 3: Leverage existing and build new strategic alliances to advance goals relating to community stabilization and neighborhood revitalization

Key Strategies

- Take a holistic approach to community stabilization
- Support and expand on CAC's investment in the Upper Albany neighborhood to promote long-term stability
- Encourage new investments in CAC's target area by highlighting success and impact of CAC initiatives
- More effectively empower neighborhood stakeholders — homeowners, landlords and tenants, as well as business owners and merchants — to advocate for positive change
- Encourage community organizing as

proven, potent empowerment strategy

Goal 4: Expand and fortify the CAC's reputation for leadership in urban ministry as an advocate for the poor, a prophetic voice for social justice, and a builder of coalitions to address issues of common concern

Key Strategies

- Be a visible and vocal advocate for systemic change benefiting the urban poor
- Anchor CAC's identity in its faith-based approach and bridge-building model of community engagement and empowerment
- Effectively differentiate CAC from other organizations with similar goals and programs
- Act as a convener and catalyst on issues relating to social justice
- Increase awareness and understanding of CAC's impact in the community

Goal 5: Build sustainable organizational

capacity—human, financial, and physical resources—that supports attainment of the CAC's goals and enhances its value-adding impact in the community

Key Strategies

- Stay focused on mission and on doing well what CAC does best
- Streamline operations, aligning staffing with programmatic priorities
- Ensure that programs are more integrated and in synergy with each other
- Pursue partnerships and collaborations to leverage resources and maximize impact
- Expand and diversify sources of funding and operating support

Investment Committee

David A. Roozen, Chair

Yes, these have been painful and scary times for investments, ours no exception. For the 2008 calendar year, the value of our endowment dropped \$2,300,000 (–28.8%) to a year end of \$5,672,000, as shown in the table below. And to put all the bad news right up front: from January 1, 2009 through the first week of March, we lost another 11%; and, because of the 20 quarter lagging average policy we have for computing how much we can draw from the endowment into the annual operating budget, this draw will continually decline for at least the next six years. Exactly how much and how long is, of course, dependent on how quickly and how powerfully the investment markets recover. A conservative projection suggests the draw could go from the \$366,609 draw into the current 2009 budget to \$246,000 for 2015 before beginning to increase again in 2016.

Fortunately, there is also good news. Because of the allocation policies that guide our investments, the drop in the value of our endowment was nowhere near that of the stock market as a whole and the invested principle remains over 25% greater than 25 years ago. Further good news: The stock market slide hit a low in early March 2009 and has regained all of the early year losses such that as of the end of May 2009 we stand even with the beginning of the year. Perhaps most importantly, our advisors believe the market collapse has bottomed, will bounce

around a bit the rest of this year and turn bullish in 2010. Accordingly, we have already begun to rebuild our allocation in equities from the 50% at the end of 2008 toward the 60% target of our investment policies.

Something I'd also put in the good news category is the deep appreciation I have for the way our advisors and my colleagues on the Investment Committee have balanced, as we struggled with the downturn, a disciplined commitment to our investment policies and a probing exploration of alternatives. It has been an education and we have a much greater understanding and appreciation of each other, of the market and of our job as stewards of the Council's investments.

The CAC's investment policies have served us well ever since they were created 30-some years ago. They are grounded in what is known as allocation theory. Allocation theory seeks a diversity of asset classes that, in the words of our policy, do not move up and down precisely when the others do, this imperfect correlation serving to stabilize the overall portfolio in a way that produces the lowest level of return volatility for each level of expected return. Since the investment policies were created, a number of new investment vehicles have come on line that provide greater flexibility in targeting the goals of allocation theory. Thus we added REITS to our policies a couple of

Investment Performance

	in \$1,000s		
	PCG	BOA	TOTAL
Market Value 12/31/08	\$2,600	\$3,072	\$5,672
Market Value 12/31/07	\$3,562	\$4,409	\$7,971
Decrease After Draw	–27.01%	–30.32%	–28.84%
Decrease Before Draw	–22.23%	–26.47%	–24.58%
Total Return – Composite Index**	n/a	n/a	–22.89%
Portfolio Allocation 12/31/08			
• Equities	50.2%	52.2%	51.5%
• Fixed	25.2%	43.3%	35.1%
• Cash	24.6%	3.8%	13.4%

** Composite Index: 0.44 S&P 500; 0.07 Russell 2000; 0.10 EAFE; and 0.39 Lehman Inter

years ago, which are basically mutual funds of real estate companies and holdings. There are also similar things for commodities (energy, materials and agriculture) and high yield bonds.

The Investment Committee will recommend a slightly revised set of allocation classes and splits to the CAC Board sometime this coming fall. In the meantime we have approved a small allocation in a commodity mutual fund (which is not precluded by our current policies) and we are asking the board at the annual meeting for a policy waiver that will allow us to make a small allocation to a high yield bond fund (currently precluded

by our policies) until we have the revised allocation policies. In all of the cases the purpose is to increase the uncorrelated diversity of our overall portfolio toward a balancing of overall risk and return.

The investment committee submits a quarterly report to the CAC Board that contains more detail about our investment policies, advisors, committee members, current status of investments and trends. If you would like a copy of the most recent report or have questions or comments, please email me at roozen@hartsem.edu.

Iglesia Cristiana Nueva Esperanza, UCC (New Hope Hispanic Christian Church)

Rev. Edwin O. Ayala

The Christian Activities Council has been a great partner and supporter of Iglesia Cristiana Nueva Esperanza. Your continued support, encouragement and challenge to promote equality and justice among Latino/Hispanic is truly appreciated.

We are a great example of what you mean when you say that the Christian Activities Council “breaks barriers and builds community.” We are grateful! Rev. Edwin Ayala and Rev. Damaris Whittaker are not only our spiritual leaders but also our inspiration.

Highlights of Achievements This Year

- The group is growing. We have had 80 in worship, a group of 10 children and 8 youth.
- Our Latino /Hispanic community is diverse including people from Mexico; the Dominican Republic; Puerto Rico, including first-, second- and third- generations, born in Puerto Rico and born in the U.S.; Honduras; Guatemala; and other countries.
- Our justice ministries have included

nutritional educational programs in partnership with the Hispanic Health Council and pastoral counseling for substance abuse users in partnership with Latino Community Services.

- Our ministries have been with women, families, children and youth.
- The church has help create a separate 501(c)3 organization, “New Hope in Community,” with programs in East Hartford and New Britain.
- One of the most important decision of this past year was to physically move from East Hartford to Hartford. We are now in the City of Hartford as a full partner and collaborator for the empowerment of the poor in Hartford.

We are committed to continue collaborating with the Christian Activities Council as together we “break barriers, build community and empower new immigrants and the poor in the Capital City of Hartford!

“Adelante amigos~”

Amistad UCC Church

Bishop John L. Selders, Jr., Pastor

Thank you officers, the CAC's board of directors and council members, friends, well wishers and supporters of the work and ministry of the Christian Activities Council, Congregational.

Almost 8 years ago, we embarked on the journey of organizing our congregation. From the beginning, the Christian Activities Council has been right there with financial support, technical assistance, counsel and advice. We are so thankful for the role you've played in our mission and ministry. Again, we are so appreciative of The Rev. Don Steinle, Executive Director for his continued leadership. Don, you bless you with your timely words of encouragement, wisdom and partnership. Thank you!

We continue to do the work of mission and ministry in partnership with Elmwood Community Church. We've now been successful in establishing our media

presence on Hartford's Cable Access Television with our weekly 30-minute telecast of worship services entitled, "The Voice of Freedom Telecast" with also a web-based telecast. Many Hartford residents are tuning in and are telling us our witness has been a blessing to them. Thanks be to God! We also continue to be involved in the life of the broader United Church of Christ with several of our members serving on committees of the association and conference.

All praise be to God.

On behalf of the leadership and congregation of Amistad UCC, I'd like thank you for all your help and support. Continue to pray for us and we will you.

We remain partners in the work of urban ministry for the sake of the gospel!

Family Life Education, Inc.

Candida Flores, Executive Director

Since 1987, the goal of Family Life Education programming has been to help improve the lives of low-income teen and young parents by helping them move off welfare successfully and permanently and achieve self-sufficiency.

We provide weekly, year-round educational peer support groups as well as individual, intensive case management services including home visiting, direct service (food, transportation, clothing, furniture, etc.), advocacy, positive role modeling, education and career planning, crisis intervention, supportive counseling and referral.

Overall Major Accomplishments in 2008

Of the 50 mothers and 3 fathers with 65 children (118 people total):

- 1 attends college and also works
- 10 graduated from high school, adult education or training programs
- 2 are in school and also work
- 18 are in school, training programs or have already graduated
- 12 are working
- 92% had no repeat pregnancies.

Program Evaluation

Family Life Education was one of only 12 local agencies chosen to participate in a two-year survey and evaluation program

through the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. Family Life participants surveyed in March 2008 show that:

- 90% reported attaining the goals they set for themselves for the past six months
- 95% reported that the program made a positive difference in the way they thought of and felt about themselves
- 71% reported that the program had made a difference in the way they thought of and felt about their children

The clients reported that learning in these areas was the most helpful:

- Making your home safe for your children
- Dealing with your child's behavior
- Balancing school and motherhood
- Meeting basic needs for babies

The survey indicated that the program is working well and overall Family Life is meeting program goals. However, it was notable that participants receiving multiple services had significant gains in education, employment and self-sufficiency. We will be looking at cross-enrolling more strategically as we move forward. We will also be improving our data tracking to allow us to track DCF involvement, violence, substance abuse, psychological problems, and specific barriers to family goal achievement.

Educational Support Groups 2008

Name of Group	Participants	Group Sessions	Casework/Outreach Services Only	Children Served
High School	21	45	9	24
Career Paths	21	36	10	32
TOTALS	43	81	19	56

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Christian Activities Council, June 9, 2008

Submitted by Thomas Dean, Secretary

The Christian Activities Council held its 2008 Annual Meeting on June 9, 2008, at Immanuel Congregational Church, 10 Woodland Street, Hartford, Connecticut, with Robert A. Cushman, President, CAC, presiding. The meeting was held, per meeting Notice, "... in conjunction ..." with the Board of Directors of Urban Suburban Affordables, Inc.

- *CAC Council (delegates):* Carolyn Brooks-burton, Dr. Robert Cushman, Francis Davila, Thomas Dean, Phil Duke, Shirley Fulton, James Funderburk, Linda Funderburk, William Gerber, Helen Lansberg, Donna Manocchio, George Merrick, Susanne Morrill, Richard Pawlich-Pagliccio, Dave Roozen, Barbara Stott, James Trail, Tyrone Walker, David Weaver, Damaris Whittaker
- *CAC Staff and Associates:* Rev. Nancy Allen, Rev. Edwin Ayala, Candy Bordonaro, Yvonne Chandler, Kenneth Esposito, Sandra Foster, Tori Hamilton, Rev. John Selders, Rev. Donald Steinle
- *ßBoard, Urban Suburban Affordables, Inc.:* Noel McGregor, Kathleen Service
- *Honored Guests and Visitors:* Steve Erickson (Whittlesey & Hadley) and Carol Staron

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM, President Robert Cushman presiding. President Cushman thanked member congregation Immanuel Congregational Church for its generosity and hospitality in hosting the evening's proceedings. President Cushman then called upon the Rev. Edwin O. Ayala to give the invocation. Following the invocation President Cushman led the proceedings with introductions of attendees. He thereupon proceeded as follows:

Annual Report. President Cushman directed the attention of attendees to the

Christian Activities Council *Annual Report 2007-2008*. He briefly surveyed for attendees the contents of the *Annual Report*, including reports from committees, officers, executive director and others, including the minutes from the previous annual meeting. He offered comments and asked for any questions from the floor. Hearing none, he inaugurated the business of the meeting with the presentations, below.

Treasurer's Report. George Merrick, Treasurer, reporting. Mr. Merrick referred the gathered assembly to the written Treasurer's Report contained in the *Annual Report 2007-2008*. Verbally, he commented upon and concluded with highlights contained in the written report, as found on pages 22-23.

President Cushman then regained the floor, calling for attention to the report of the Nominating Committee and yielding to its chair.

Nominating Committee. Chairperson, Shirley Fulton, presenting. Ms. Fulton indicated that the Committee's nominees for the Officers, Board members and open posts for at-large delegate members for the CAC were listed in the Committee's entry in the *Annual Report*. She read the list of nominees. She asked the proposed new members nominated by the Committee to stand up and be recognized, and then requested the President to open the matter for nominations from the floor. The matter was so opened, but no floor nominations were received. Hearing none, Ms. Fulton then requested CAC assembly affirmation of the Committee's nominees as so listed by a motion from the floor. A motion was heard to the effect that a single voice ballot be taken to approve the Committee's nominees, as presented. The motion received a second. The question was called and the motion was approved without dissent.

As this meeting also coincided with the noticed annual meeting, time and place,

called by the Board of Directors of Urban Suburban Affordables, Inc. (USA), for the election to fill vacancies on its board and for officers, Ms. Fulton was also delegated by USA to present nominations, nominated by the Nominating Committee in accordance with the USA *By-laws* pertaining thereto. Ms. Fulton read the list of officer and board candidates. She then requested nominations from the floor. Hearing none, she requested a motion from the floor from a USA board attendee. Such motion was thereupon received from the floor, followed immediately by a second. The question was called and the motion was approved without dissent. Ms. Fulton thereupon yielded the floor back to President Cushman.

President Cushman then expressed his thanks USA member attendees for all their efforts over the past year.

Announcements. President Cushman paused in the order of business and called upon Executive Director Donald R. Steinle and Associate Director Edwin O. Ayala to present announcements to the gathered assembly.

Executive Director Steinle:

- **Open House.** An open house was to be held at the latest site of CAC housing projects, 24 Edgewood Street, Hartford. The project is a three unit condominium complex, renovated from one of Hartford's historic "perfect 6" apartment buildings. The open house was scheduled for June 21, 2008, from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM.
- **Recognition, Wedding Anniversary.** Longtime CAC Board member, former Treasurer, former Vice president, David Weaver and his wife are to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, June 14, 2008. A heartfelt round of applause reverberated around the meeting room.

Associate Director Ayala:

New school sites for the 2008 Adventures in the City program were announced.

Audit Report. President Cushman introduced Steve Erickson, representing the accounting firm, Whittlesey and Hadley, P.C., engaged to perform the annual audit of the CAC's finances. Mr. Erickson reviewed for the assembly the consolidated audit report (CAC and USA) for the year ending December 31, 2007. He verbally reviewed the various balance sheets and important footnotes. He offered highlights and comments thereto. He indicated that it is an unqualified report for the state Single audit report, there were no exceptions taken. The audit report is a separate report and is not contained within the Annual Report, but by reference is incorporated within and made a part hereof as if more fully set forth herein. Copies are available by request to the offices of the CAC.

Action Item – Proposed Resolution.

President Cushman yielded the floor to Executive Director Steinle. Executive Director Steinle identified a need to grant authority to Yvonne Chandler, CAC Director of Housing Ventures to represent the CAC with respect to a contract regarding its domestic violence program with the Department of Social Services. Steinle proposed the following resolution:

"RESOLVED that Yvonne Deal Chandler Director of Housing Ventures, Christian Activities Council, Congregational, is empowered to enter into and amend contractual instruments in the name and on behalf of this Contractor with the Department of Social Services of the State of Connecticut for a Shelter for Domestic Violence program, and to affix the corporate seal."

A motion to adopt the foregoing Resolution as stated was recognized. A second was heard. There being no debate upon opportunity provided, the question was called. The motion was adopted without dissent.

Minutes, Annual Meeting of June 11, 2007. Upon opportunity to review a correction was identified. At page 20 of the Annual Report, under New Business, an amendment to an earlier resolution, said amendment being for the purpose of increasing the CAC development line of credit, the entity

identified was erroneously stated as the "Bank of America." The Minutes should be corrected to state the true entity extending the development line of credit: Private Capitol Group. A motion to that effect was entered, followed by a second. The question was called. The motion was approved unanimously. A motion was recognized to approve the Minutes as submitted and contained in the *Annual Report 2007-2008*, as hereby corrected. The motion received a second. The question was called and the Minutes were approved unanimously.

Executive Director's Report. President Cushman yielded the floor to Executive Director Steinle for the purpose of providing a verbal report to the gathered assembly to supplement the written Executive Director's Report found beginning on page 4 of the *Annual Report*. Executive Director Steinle took the floor to offer commentary about the past year, state a forecast concerning the upcoming year, assessing changes and challenges to the CAC, its operations and objectives.

Adjournment. President Cushman offered his closing remarks to the gathered assembly. He opened the floor for any other business for consideration. Hearing none he thereupon adjourned the meeting at 6:44 PM. The Reverend John Selders was prevailed upon to recite the closing benediction.

Treasurer's Report

Summary of Operating Public Support, Revenue, Transfers and Expires

George Merrick, CAC Treasurer

Public Support, Revenues, and Transfers:

Endowment Funds Income (Transfers)	\$ 349,000
Estate Income Distributions	19,664
Church Contributions	20,332
Individual Contributions	8,561
Administrative Fees - Urban Suburban Affordables	60,000
Interest Income	365
Summer Program	106,833
M.T.A.I. Contributions	9,338
C.A.C. Financial Services	35,100
Developer fees	12,304
Grant Income	431,253
Other Income	34,727

Total Public Support, Revenues and Transfers 1,087,477

Expenditures:

Salary and Housing	541,065
Payroll Taxes and Benefits	186,721
Office	114,025
Utilities	10,833
Insurance	17,663
Professional Fees	9,375
Staff and Program Development	4,791
Housing Program Expenses	91,218
M.T.I. Program	7,994
Church and Organization Support	36,555
Summer Program	107,954

Total Expenditures 1,128,194

Net Income \$(40,717)

The above information is a summary of the operating support, revenue, transfers and expenses for the year ended December 31, 2008. The complete financial statements including the opinion of our independent certified accountant, Whittlesey & Hadley, P.C., are available upon request.

Contributions and Support

for the Year Ended December 31, 2008

Church Contributions

Avon Congregational Church	\$ 500.00
Broadview Community Church	\$ 250.00
Buckingham Congregational Church	\$ 500.00
Church of Christ, Congregational, Newington	\$ 275.00
Congregational Church of Marlborough	\$ 517.10
Congregational Church of South Glastonbury	\$ 4,600.00
East Granby Congregational Church	\$ 3,900.00
Elmwood Community Church	\$ 250.00
Faith Congregational Church	\$ 300.00
Farmington Valley Association, UCC	\$ 1,000.00
First Church in Windsor	\$ 1,200.00
First Church of Christ, Cong, Farmington	\$ 2,000.00
First Church of Christ, Hartford	\$ 845.00
First Church of Christ, Simsbury	\$ 6,000.00
First Church of Christ, Suffield	\$ 500.00
First Church of Christ, West Hartford	\$ 1,500.00
First Church, Glastonbury	\$ 1,500.00
First Congregational Church Canton Center	\$ 1,225.00
First Congregational Church of Granby	\$ 1,250.00
First Congregational Church, Bloomfield	\$ 1,200.00
Flagg Road United Church of Christ	\$ 170.00
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church	\$ 1,000.00
Hartford Assoc. UCC	\$ 3,000.00
Immanuel Congregational Church	\$ 1,500.00
Missionary Society of CT	\$ 60.00
New Hope Church AR	\$ 200.00
Rocky Hill Congregational Church	\$ 1,000.00
Silent Auction Proceeds	\$ 4,738.03
Somers Congregational Church	\$ 500.00
South Congregational Church East Hartford	\$ 965.00
Warburton Community Church AR	\$ 150.00
West Avon Congregational Church	\$ 2,050.00
Wilson Congregational Church of Windsor	\$ 200.00
 TOTAL	 \$ 44,845.13

Contributions and Support

for the Year Ended December 31, 2008

Foundations and Corporate Support

Aetna Foundation, Inc.
Capital Workforce Partners
City of Hartford,
 Appraisal Gap Funds
 Community Development Block Grant
 Housing Opportunities for People with Aids (HOPWA)
 Weed and Seed
Connecticut Housing Investment Fund
Edwin H. Bingham Estate
Hartford Courant Foundation
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
Hartford Making Connections
Irene Hills Estate
J. Walton Bissell Foundation
Lincoln Financial Services
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Long Foundation
Schwab Charitable Fund
State of CT, Department of Economic and Community Development
State of CT, Department of Social Services
TD Banknorth
Travelers
Universal Health Care Foundation of CT
U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development
Weston Estate

Contributions and Support

for the Year Ended December 31, 2008

Friends Contributing

Joyce H. Allen
R. Regner Arvidson
Rev. Edwin O. Ayala
James and Rita Bagnall
Sara Jackson Batchelder
Rev. Gordon S. Bates
Dorothy A. Benko
Luz N. Berrios-Taveras
John W. Bisset
Paul D. Bobbitt
Robinson Buck
Harold and Joyce Buckingham
Roger Bunker
M. I. Cake
Anne S. Carey
Douglas G. Christie
Corporation for Independent Living
Alastair Clark
Lois M. Comstock
Carmen Cruz-Velez
Dr. Robert A. Cushman
Edwin M. Dahill
Dr. Robert O. Decker
Fred and Bebe Dudley
John and Karen Dugan
Eagle Advisors
Elizabeth B. Eliason
Steven C. Erickson
Robert and Alice Evans
Carole C. Fay
Sandra Foster
Neal B. Freuden
James and Linda Funderburk
Valorie Gaines
Kathleen P. Gourlie
Horace Bushnell Management Resources
George and Gladys Hernandez
Janet S. Hill
David S. Hoopes
John and Donna Kidwell

Helen Lansberg
Arthur B. Locke
Charlotte Lueckel
Marconi Construction Co.
Mayo Crowe, LLC
Hugh C. McLean
Neighborhoods of Hartford, Inc.
David Owens
Kenneth A. Poppe
Robert K. Rath
Renae Reese
Michael L. Roy
Jack Ryan
Jean T. Sargent
James M. Scaramozza
George A. Schoen
Rev. J. Richard Sherlock
Linda M. Sinapi
St. Paul Travelers
Rev. Donald R. Steinle
John M. Stevens
Robert and Barbara Stott
Anne P. Streeter
Cheryl Thomas
Roxie Thompson
Shirley W. Thompson
Miriam C. Truesdell
Judith Walter
Fred L. Ward
Whitlesey & Hadley, P.C.
Betty A. Wiesner
Cynthia Williams
Nathan D. Woodberry
Douglas H. Wootten

Nominating Committee, Board, Council Members 2008-2009

Shirley Fulton, Chair of Nominating Committee

Christian Activities Council

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Rev. Michael C. Williams

Vice President

Dr. Robert Cushman

Secretary

Bebe Dudley

Chair, Investment Committee

Dr. David Roozen

Chair, External Relations

David Weaver

Chair, Long Range Planning

Phil Duke

Chair, Nominating Committee

Shirley Fulton

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Carolyn Brooks-Burton

Francis Davila

William Gerber

Richard Pawlich-Paglicco

Noel McGregor

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Rev. Michael C. Williams

Vice President

Dr. Robert A. Cushman

Treasurer

George Merrick

Secretary

Bebe Dudley

Chair, Investment Committee

Dr. David Roozen

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Class of 2010

Dr. Robert A. Cushman

Dr. David Roozen

Francis Divila

Jim Trail

Rev. Michael C. Williams

Thomas Dean

Class of 2011

Rev. Gordon Bates

Carolyn Brooks-Burton

Shirley Fulton

James Funderburk

Gwendolyn Lewis

Rev. Donna Manocchio

Rev. Ineke K. Mitchell

Class of 2012

Denise Best

M.I. Cake (Honorary)

Rev. Mark Deters

Marilyn L. Risi

Ray Ferrari

Tom Finlay

Prince Lee

Fernando Morales

Urban Suburban Affordables

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Stevens

Tracy Natal

Althea Cordner

Thomas Corrigan

Neiima Edwards

Michelle McFarland

Roberta Pena

Michael Rion

Kathleen Service

Adrian Walton

Sponsoring Churches and Church Delegates

2008-2009

Avon

Avon Congregational Church
Lee Eacott

West Avon Congregational
Church
Daryl Ann Ballantyne

Bloomfield

First Congregational Church
in Bloomfield
David A. Weaver

Canton

First Congregational Church,
Canton Center
Mission and Stewardship Committee

East Granby

First Congregational Church of
East Granby

East Hartford

First Congregational Church
of East Hartford
New Hope Hispanic Church
South Congregational Church
Nancy Fitzgerald

Farmington

First Church of Christ,
Congregational
Pat Reville, MI Cake (Honorary)

Glastonbury

Buckingham Congregational
Church of UCC
Bebe Dudley
Congregational Church of South
Glastonbury
Linda Funderburk
First Church of Christ,
Congregational

Granby

First Congregational Church of
Granby
Ernie Gardow
South Congregational Church of
Granby

Hartford

Amistad UCC Church
Tyrone Walker
Asylum Hill Congregational
Church
Ray Ferrari
Broadview Community Church
Barbara Stott
Faith Congregational Church
Andrea Davey-Mercer, Prince Lee
First Church of Christ in Hartford
(Center Church)
Dana Geter-Walker
Immanuel Congregational
Church
William Gerber
South Congregational Church,
National Assn. of Congregational
Christian Churches
Frank P. Lockard
Warburton Community Church

Manchester

Center Congregational Church

Newington

Church of Christ, Congregational

Rocky Hill

Rocky Hill Congregational
Church
Richard Pawlich-Pagliccio

Simsbury

First Church of Christ
Sara J. Batchelder

Vernon

First Congregational Church of
Vernon

West Hartford

Covenant Congregational Church
of West Hartford
Elmwood Community Church
First Church of Christ,
Congregational
Flagg Road United Church of
Christ
Susanne Morrill

Windsor

First Church in Windsor
George Merrick, Tom Finlay
Poquonock Community Church,
Congregational
Wapping Community Church
Wilson Congregational Church

Staff, Related Staff and Life Members

Staff

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Rev. Edwin O. Ayala

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Director of the Metropolitan
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Executive Director
Better Quality Management

Kathy Simpson

Communications Consultant
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Life Members

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Helen Lansberg

Douglas H. Wootten