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Vice President, Rippowam Corp.

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Christine Young, Editor

***Fairgate Farm
Harvest Festival***
Saturday, October 13th
10 am to 12 noon



*Celebrate the season's bounty with
food tastings, games, crafts, and music!
This family-focused festival is free and
open to all!*

Board Meetings for 2018:

- **October 24, 2018**
- **November 14, 2018**
- **December 12, 2018**

*The meeting will begin at
6:00 p.m. at Post House,
40 Clinton Avenue in the first-floor
meeting room.*

Building a Strong Community at Charter Oak Communities

By Mary Sullivan, LCSW, Resident Services Manager

Family Centers and Charter Oak Communities (COC) continue to build their strong partnership, offering support services to the resident population for over 10 years. Family Centers Resident Service Coordinators (RSCs) provide residents with supportive services and linkage to community resources as well as opportunities to strengthen relationships within their neighborhoods and with each other.

Resident Service Coordinators are available at each community to support residents in reaching their goals. Whether residents are striving to build a stronger support network, make a career change or develop English language skills, a RSC is available to build a trusting relationship and to provide encouragement, information and feedback. Every resident goal and need is taken seriously, and the RSCs assist residents as they strive to overcome obstacles and grow closer to their dreams.

Linking residents to community resources to address self-sufficiency challenges is a large part of the RSC's daily responsibilities. RSCs connect residents to programs offering energy assistance, employment and career support,

education, wellness services, financial assistance, after-school care, government entitlement, social activities, mental health assistance, skill-building workshops, services for newly arrived residents and more! If you're not sure if your RSC can assist you, please ask them.

Building a stronger community is another important aspect of the RSC's job. Encouraging neighbors to support each other and help make their community one that meets its residents' needs is crucial. RSCs provide insightful information on events and workshops for residents to socialize and strengthen their support networks.

Multi-generational events that encourage children and senior interaction by learning from one another are key to maintaining community connections. Ice cream

(Continued on Page 2)



Adults engaged in an English class with Family Centers Literacy Volunteers.



Employee Profile: Peter Stothart



Many residents may be familiar with COC employee Peter Stothart, since he's been at COC for over 28 years! Peter has seen many changes since 1990 including four executive directors, our name change from The Housing Authority of the City of Stamford to Charter Oak Communities, and coworkers and residents who have come and gone, many of whom he considers like family.

Peter has always had an interest in history, the trades and construction. He began his college studies at Colorado State University, transferred to the University of Oregon and ultimately graduated from Sacred Heart University (SHU) with a Bachelor of Arts in History while working in construction full time. Peter also attended the

Colonial School of Drafting and Design in Bridgeport and continued to work in the trades for 10 years before being hired at COC. He became proficient in carpentry, worked in a wood shop as a patternmaker and did cabinet work. Today, he still enjoys building things and working with his hands.

Well suited for a career at COC, Peter began his career as a housing inspector in Section 8, then advanced to a modernization coordinator, which led him to his current position today as our procurement & modernization coordinator. "I enjoy the variety and, although I have a single title, I'm able to oversee many different characteristics of the buildings," Peter says. "The capital projects are different -- siding and windows one week, boilers another, kitchens and baths yet another."

Peter adds, "I like working with various people of different backgrounds, including architects and engineers, contractors and laborers. There is always something unique to learn from all of them. In the procurement area things are always changing, from working with attorneys and accountants to security guards. From janitorial vendors to computer consultants to

sanitation contractors, the diversity makes it very interesting!"

Peter grew up in Fairfield, one of six siblings. After attending college he met his wife in Stamford, and they had two sons. Over the years Peter and his family have enjoyed hiking in the backcountry and camping. When his two boys were younger, he was the assistant scoutmaster to their scout troop, a responsibility that included countless camping trips and camporees. Peter's sons are now young adults; the oldest is a forester working for the U.S. Forest Service in Oregon overseeing forest management and sustainability. Peter's second son is a CAD designer working for an audio and visual design firm. Although his boys have left home, he keeps busy with his dog, Hunter, and two cats, Jenny and Bella.

Peter loves to travel. He has been to many places in the United States and has seen much of the West. He took an extensive trip to Washington and Oregon with his son last year and two years ago traveled to New Brunswick, Canada. Europe is next, with the United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark as priorities!

Building a Strong Community at Charter Oak Communities

(Continued from Page 1)

socials and adopt a grand-parent day were successful programs that have been well received. Also, the homework club provides a place where children can learn from each other, address reading challenges and experience community service that helps to strengthen their ties to the community.

The clubs also engage in regular discussions about the value of education, staying connected to friends and family

and taking care of each other. Additionally, Fairgate Farm has been helpful in providing work projects and classes where residents are encouraged to take care of their environment and learn about healthy foods and nutrition.

Family Centers and COC proudly continue their partnership to encourage self-development through services for our residents that help them to be engaged and part of a healthy and productive community.



Resident Service Coordinator: Jackie Ofria



Jackie Ofria, COC's newest Resident Service Coordinator (RSC), has an office located at COC's newest building, Park 215. She is excited to

begin working with residents and offering support services. This includes assisting residents with case management, assistance with applications, energy subsidies, and educational groups or fun programs for families.

Jackie is a graduate of Salve Regina University with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work, and is a graduate of Fordham University with a Masters in Social Work.

Prior to her RSC position, Jackie worked as a clinical intern assisting children and adolescents struggling

with various stressors. Also, she facilitated bereavement groups at the local high school as well as led an ongoing support group for elderly and disabled residents. Prior to Jackie's work at Family Centers, she was an in-home crisis worker in eastern Connecticut.

When not in the office, Jackie loves to be outside hiking or relaxing with friends and family. She looks forward to building relationships with all the new residents at Park 215!

Please welcome Jackie at Park 215!

Summer Club 2018

By Mary Sullivan, LCSW, Resident Services Manager

The 2018 Summer Club program staffed by Family Centers, volunteers and curriculum coordinators was offered to more than 30 children from Lawnhill Terrace, Oak Park and Fairgate for six weeks in July and August. The children brushed up on their skills in reading, math, science, art and digital literacy. Learning about the importance of caring for self and others, building a strong community and making new friends were other benefits. Also, the children enjoyed field trips, educational enrichment programs, team-building and fun problem-solving activities.

Some of the highlights of the Summer Club included African drumming, building volcanos, and creating slime paint creations and kindness rocks. The children had an opportunity to participate in

field trips to Camp Simmons in Greenwich and the Maritime Center in Norwalk. Nothing beats learning how to canoe, swim and shoot an arrow with your new friends at a beautiful outdoor camp. Heartwarming stories were heard

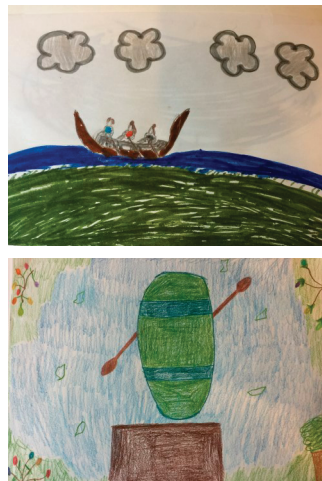
when the children returned from camp boasting about their adventures and newly acquired skills. Interacting with stingrays and other marine life in touch tanks, and watching sharks and seals feed at the Maritime Center were also popular activities.

Although the Summer Club has ended, the children have returned to school with fresh academic skills, experiences, new friends, a sense of community and wonderful memories.

Thank you to Family Centers for providing these great learning experiences!



Pictured left: Gayle Paquin, Director of Self Sufficiency and Independent Living Programs, joins the children in paddling the canoe at Camp Simmons. Pictured right: Summer Club participants proudly display their artwork.





FREE Classes With Your Resident Service Coordinators

New opportunities are coming to your community! If healthy recipes, after-school programs and Literacy/English classes are of interest to you, read below for details. We also invite you to chat with us about your

ideas for programs and workshops and would like to hear about the workshops or programs that would be of interest to you. Please talk with your Resident Service Coordinator today!

Free Cooking with Jenna (the healthy food expert!):

A workshop on healthy recipes will be offered at the following sites:

Rippowam	Wednesday, 10/10 at 11 am
Glenbrook	Wednesday, 10/17 at 1:30 pm
Wormser	Monday, 11/5 at 3:30 pm
Post House	Wednesday, 11/13 at 11 am
Clinton Manor (held at Post House)	Wednesday, 11/13 at 11 am
Lawnhill Terrace	Wednesday, 12/5 at 5 pm
Fairgate	Tuesday, 12/11 at 4:30 pm



Free Literacy Classes for English language learners will be offered at the following sites: Lawnhill Terrace, Oak Park, Rippowam Manor and Stamford Manor. Speak to your Resident Service Coordinator if you are interested.

Free “After School Club” will be offered at Lawnhill Terrace and Palmer Square. The schedule is as follows:

Lawnhill Terrace	Mondays & Wednesdays starting 10/1 from 3:30 to 5 pm
Palmer Square	Tuesday & Thursdays starting 10/2 from 3 to 5 pm

Free Workshops coming later this fall and winter:

- Art & Conversation (Senior Support Group)
Coming in October to Stamford Manor
- Truancy: Ideas to support families and promote school attendance
- Financial fitness workshops
- Wellness workshops

We look forward to offering you programs and support services that meet your interests and needs. Please visit with your Resident Service Coordinator if you have questions or if you are interested in joining any of these programs.

