



Christian Community Action, Inc.

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S U M M E R 2 0 0 7

Tickets Moving Briskly for Capitol Steps Show



The word is out and people are “stepping up” to buy tickets to the October 25th performance of the Capitol Steps. Tickets are available by calling (800) 228-6622 or by going online at www.shubert.com. Discounts on groups of 20 or more are also available by calling the Shubert Box Office at (203) 562-5666.

Top Platinum sponsor for the evening is the law firm of Stratton Faxon, Connecticut's firm for trial law. Gold sponsor is New Alliance Foundation, with Comcast serving as Silver sponsor.

Bronze sponsors for the evening include: A-1 Toyota, Bank of America, Casey Family Services, Citizens Bank, Quinnipiac

University, Saint Raphael Healthcare System, Webster Bank, Yale-New Haven Hospital and Yale University.

Media sponsors include The New Haven Register; La Voz Hispana de Connecticut; 1220 WQUN; WSHU-FM, National Public Radio; WTNH-TV Channel 8 / MyTV9.

Described by humorist P.J. O'Rourke (one of the featured panelists in CCA's 2006 Forum) as “what Washington would be like if everyone was smart and could sing,” The Capitol Steps were formed by a group of U.S. Senate staffers 26 years ago. Although not all the members of the current troupe have worked in Congress, collectively they have more than 62 years of U.S. House of Representatives / U.S. Senate experience.

Featured on ABC, CBS, NBC and PBS, The Steps can be heard four times a year on National Public Radio stations nationwide during their Politics Takes a Holiday specials. They have recorded 27 albums, including their latest, Springtime For Liberals, featuring the songs, “Everything's Run by Pelosi (Everything's Coming Up Roses)” and “A Leader Like Barack (Leader of the Pack).”

The Capitol Steps fan base spans both sides of the political aisle and includes former President George H.W. Bush who once said that having The Capitol Steps around “made it easier to leave public office.”

The Capitol Steps' musical repertoire is as varied as today's headlines and is updated almost as frequently as the cable news channels. To see / hear samples of some of their more recent work, visit their website at www.capsteps.com.

The philosophy that The Capitol Steps use in approaching their work can best be summed up by one of their members, Elaina Newport:

“Typically, the Republicans goof up and the Democrats party. Then the Democrats goof up and the Republicans party. That's why we call it the two-party system.”

Proceeds from the October 25th show will benefit CCA's programs to help families that are homeless or in crisis in their efforts to regain independence and self-sufficiency.



**La reina de los pavos
(The queen of the turkeys).**

That's what we here at CCA jokingly call Lillian Marquez, pictured above, our director of emergency family services, at this time of year. Lillian, you see, is our General Patton when it comes to organizing our effort to provide turkeys and all the fixings

Thanksgiving Food Basket Effort Now Underway

needed for a home-cooked Thanksgiving meal to about 1,200 families, seniors and persons with disabilities, all of whom are low income.

In addition to overseeing our 17-apartment Hillside Family Shelter and our Food Pantry (which serves 500 families and individuals a month), Lillian, right now, also is responsible for scheduling pick ups of food collections, overseeing the sorting and bagging of everything collected and making sure the right bags get to the right families and individuals for the holiday.

Remarkable as Lillian is, all of her efforts would amount to little without the help and support of many volunteers and people of good will from area businesses, churches,

civic organizations and schools. And so, once again, as we have for more than 25 years, we are calling out for assistance.

Here's how you can help: Sponsor nonperishable food collection

This year we are looking for items not only for Thanksgiving, but to replenish our Food Pantry, which has been going through some lean times of late, along with other food pantries and soup kitchens in the region, as demand continues to increase beyond available supplies.

Items particularly needed include low-sugar cereals; canned meats and tuna; low-sugar fruits and low-sodium vegetables; juices;

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From the Executive Director

Rev. Bonita Grubbs

"Our steps are made firm by the Lord, when he delights in our way; though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong, for the Lord holds us by the hand."



How many times have I read these two verses from Psalm 37 and not applied it, in any way, to what we do at CCA? The obvious answer is too many, but now the time has come to do so.

First, I am pleased that the Capitol Steps are coming to do a benefit performance on October 25th and, naturally, these verses came to mind now that we are close to that date. If you believe that laughter is good medicine, come to the Shubert for a healthy dose. Your purchase of a ticket will make our financial steps firm.

Second, these verses seem to underscore where we at CCA have been, what we are and where we hope to go in the future.

More than 40 years ago, God ordered the steps of a faithful group to help one family in need that was a victim of a fire in New Haven. This action moved them from contemplating how to make their faith relevant to engaging in an act of faith and service.

Since then, our steps have been ordered by establishing an organization and a system of offering services and

programs to families and individuals in need. We "stepped up" to the plate by offering temporary and transitional services.

But more than that, our steps have been ordered as we attempted to engage in social justice. Yes, we tried to keep "in step with" what we knew would result in increased housing opportunities, decreased poverty and greater self-sufficiency by engaging in advocacy with and on behalf of those we served.

These actions have not always been easy. In our 40 years of existence, we have stumbled but not fallen, been challenged but never ultimately defeated and been stretched but not to the point of breaking. Through it all, we have been sustained and hopeful.

Supporters, friends, faithful folks, policy makers and elected officials have allowed us to plant our feet firmly—on the solid ground of service, compassion, equality and truth—and given us what we need to step forward into our 4th decade of operation.

God has given me what I need to step forward into my 20th year of service at CCA and the 20th year of my ordination into the ministry.

For that I am delighted...and grateful.

Here's How You Can Help Us This Thanksgiving

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low-sodium soups; gravy; bags of rice and beans; jars of peanut butter and jelly; desserts such as pie, pudding and cake mixes and, for the holiday, cranberry sauce and stuffing.

Once the dates of your collection are set, you can call us at 777-7848 x112 to schedule a pickup between November 12 and 16.

Volunteer to help the weekend of November 17 and 18

Those are the dates when people are critically needed to help us sort and individually bag all the food that has been collected so that it can be ready for pick up or delivery to recipients on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before Thanksgiving, which this year falls on November 22.

Donations are welcome

Annual expenses related to this effort run about \$5,000. These include the cost of turkeys beyond those that are donated to us and

expenses for food items beyond what we receive via collections and drives. Because we are currently without a truck to make food drive pickups, this year we will also have the added expense of a truck rental.

We really count on our friends and supporters to provide the funds to cover these costs. Donations made out to Christian Community Action and marked "Thanksgiving 07" can be sent to us at 168 Davenport Avenue, New Haven, CT 06519.

Starting in November, you can track our donation progress by visiting our web site — www.ccahelping.org— to view our Turkey Thermometer.

We have already begun registering families and individuals for Thanksgiving assistance, and based on the response so far, it appears our numbers may be up over 2006. Any help you can provide is much appreciated. Questions? Call the CCA Development Department at 777-7848 x112 or send an e-mail to amay@ccahelping.org

CCA Launches E-Newsletter



If you would like to keep up to date with the latest at CCA, join our e-mail list and receive our e-newsletter Faithful Witness free six times a year.

If you wish to subscribe write to Albert May at amay@ccahelping.org.

Thanks to All of Our Capitol Steps Sponsors

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The school-age children staying in CCA's Hillside Family Shelter and its Stepping Stone Transitional Housing Program facility were able to start off the new school year on a positive note, with brand-new backpacks and school supplies provided by a number of individuals and organizations. Shown here with some of our Stepping Stone residents is Lindy Lee Gold, representing the state Departments of Economic and Community Development (DECD) and Consumer Protection. Other groups that were involved in this effort were: The APT Foundation; the Connecticut Chapter of the AT&T Community NETWORK African American Telecommunications Professionals; the New Haven staff of the State Public Defenders' Office and Spring Glen Church UCC in Hamden.



**Mark Your
Calendar!**



Sunday, October 21, 2007

CCA Car Wash

9:00 a.m. to 5 :00 p.m.

At the Splash Car Wash Hamden location
(corner of Dixwell Avenue and Connolly
Parkway

Across the street from Hamden High School)

CCA to receive a \$2 donation for each
full-service wash

and \$1 for each exterior wash.

Rain date: October 28th

Hope to see you there!

Stepping Stone Begins 10th Anniversary Observation

How time flies by! Although it seems just like yesterday that CCA was launching its Stepping Stone Transitional Housing Program, the truth is the program is entering into its 10th year of operation.

The program recently noted the approach of this milestone with an open house. In its 10 years of existence, Stepping Stone has helped approximately 80 families to achieve greater independence and self sufficiency in their lives.

Stepping Stone is New Haven's only single-site transitional housing program. Its goal from the beginning is to offer up to 18 families at a time help and case management services in a safe and supportive environment that will foster growth and benefit each family member. Families can stay in the program for up to two years.

Stepping Stone operates with a staff of five full-time and two part-time employees. Its 2007 budget is \$398,052 of which about two-thirds comes from a federal grant and the rest from private grants and individual donations.

The staff of Stepping Stone is particularly proud of the fact that 78 percent of its

participants move into to permanent housing, compared to the national average for such programs of 61.5 percent. A total of 80 percent of the participants are employed upon completion of the program, compared to only 18 percent nationally.

Recently, CCA's Lifeworks Center was relocated to Stepping Stone from its previous location on Willow Street. This move means programs like CCA's Advocacy and Education Project and its Program for Internships, Vocational Opportunities and Training (PIVOT) are now more accessible to Stepping Stone residents than ever.



Christian Community Action

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