



The Progress Report

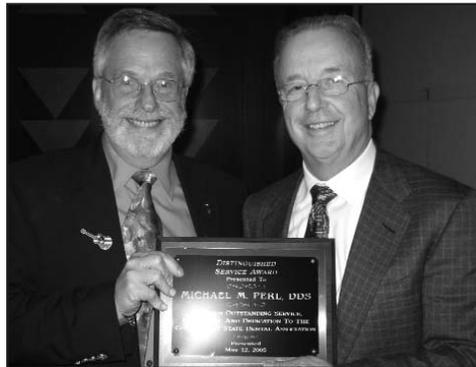


Issue 4 · Fall 2005

CT Health Foundation Moves Dental Access Project Forward

In mid-June the Connecticut Health Foundation (CHF) gave Connecticut Appleseed's dental access program a tremendous vote of confidence by awarding us a \$70,000 grant over an 18-month period. CHF is the state's largest independent, non-profit grantmaking foundation dedicating to improving the health of Connecticut residents through systemic change, program innovation and health policy analysis. Appleseed has worked closely with the CHF for the past 2-3 years, as both organizations share a commitment to the oral and mental health of children. These funds are intended to both advance Connecticut Appleseed's programs and support the continuing development of our organization.

Board Chair Marty Budd expressed his appreciation on behalf of Appleseed's Board of



Dr. Michael Perl (on right) receives the CSDA Distinguished Service Award

Directors "We really can't overstate the importance of this grant. It is timely, helping us to move past a temporary funding gap, and

transformational, enabling us to transition from an ambitious young organization to a sustainable vehicle for improving social justice. Our Board greatly values our productive partnership with the Connecticut Health Foundation. We share, among other goals, that of improving access to dental care".

Motivating Dentists to Volunteer at Clinics

Our Access to Dental Care project began with the recruitment of volunteer dentists to treat Medicaid children in two Hartford-area public health clinics. During 2004 more than 100 patient visits were handled on a pro bono basis by 18 volunteering dentists.

Last summer Appleseed Board member Dr. Michael Perl was sufficiently encouraged to persuade the Connecticut State Dental Association (CSDA) to launch a volunteer recruitment campaign. In 2005, in cooperation with the CSDA, we have expanded this clinic-based volunteer dentist initiative with pilot tests in four

Continued on Page 3

Pitney Bowes Grant Supports "CLICC" Project

Recent successes in the CLICC (Connecting through Literacy Inmates, Children and Caretakers) project include a \$10,000 award by the Pitney Bowes Board of Directors from the company's Literacy and Education Fund. Appleseed Board member and Project Founder Arthur White conceived this comprehensive project, which integrates literacy training, mentoring and email-based discussions about books, to improve the literacy and emotional well-being of inmates and their families. The books play a pivotal role, serving as vehicles to heal strained personal relationships, improve communications and help the children of inmates

continue their education and development despite an absent parent.

A test of the program is beginning at the Federal Corrections Institution in Danbury, CT. Arthur and Appleseed are understandably gratified to receive Pitney Bowes' support and get the pilot underway. We are particularly pleased that the funds come from a major Connecticut employer whose employees are renowned for their exceptional volunteerism.

The pilot will include 30 inmate parents (mothers) who are due to be released from the

Continued on Page 4

Also In this Issue:

- 2 Progress in Leveraging Pro Bono Resources
- 3 Board Member Profile: Monique Rowtham-Kennedy



Connecticut Appleseed

25 Dudley Road
Wilton, CT 06897

Phone: 203.210.5356
www.ctappleseed.org



Our Board of Directors



Martin L. Budd, Chair
Day, Berry & Howard

Dr. Bert Ballin
Health Care Connections

Marie A. Casper
Zeldes, Needle & Cooper

Pamela K. Elkow
Robinson & Cole

Rev. John Hay
Pastoral Center

Bernard E. Jacques
Pepe & Hazard

Peter Libassi, Esq.
Children's Health Advocate

Kathleen McFadden
United Technologies Corp.

Rev. Mark R. Moore
Grace Episcopal Church

Priya S. Morganstern
Connecticut Urban Legal Initiative, Inc.

Peter M. Mundheim, Treasurer
Stone Point Capital LLC

Hon. Jon Newman
U.S. Court of Appeals Second Circuit

Dr. Michael M. Perl
Associates in Periodontics, P.C.

David A. Reif
McCarter & English

Monique Rowtham-Kennedy
Northeast Utilities

Dean Brad Saxton, Vice Chair
Quinnipiac University School Of Law

Peter L. Thoren
Access Industries, Inc.

Cheever Tyler, Esq.
Non-Profit Strategies Group, Inc.

Arthur H. White
Yankelovich Group

Progress in Leveraging Pro Bono Resources

Handbook Coming: "Mental Illness, Your Client and the Criminal Law"

The New York City office of the national King & Spalding law firm is writing an initial draft of a handbook for Connecticut attorneys representing defendants afflicted with mental illness. While modeled on handbooks that King & Spalding has developed for Appleseed Centers in Texas and Georgia, it will be specific to Connecticut.

Appleseed has been eager to ensure that in-state attorneys and mental health professionals had ample chance to contribute to and review the text. Attorney Edward Heath in Robinson & Cole's Hartford office volunteered his pro bono time to draft two of the chapters. Experts in this field who welcomed the chance to review the draft included the following attorneys, mental health experts and academics:

Nancy Alisberg, Managing Attorney in Connecticut's Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities

Dr. Howard Zonana, Director of Yale's Law and Psychiatry Division, which is part of the Yale Medical School's Dept. of Psychiatry

Professor Ronald Sullivan, who heads a new criminal defense clinic within the Yale Law School

Attorneys Damon Kirschbaum, Todd Bussert and Jeff Kestenband

This fall Connecticut Appleseed will distribute the handbook to better familiarize attorneys with mental health issues under Connecticut law so they can work more effectively and sensitively with clients suffering from some aspect of mental illness.

Pro Bono Support for 3 Other Projects

Our Spring 2005 Newsletter featured a story about Connecticut Appleseed's project related to the federal No Child Left Behind ("NCLB") law. Specifically, we are joining with Appleseed Centers in four other states to collaboratively research strategies that promote parental involvement and successfully harness parental resources to reduce educational achievement gaps. Research is being conducted pro bono by a team that includes

lawyers from the national Holland & Knight law firm and volunteering in-state attorneys. Research will focus on the Bridgeport, Hamden and Bristol school systems.

Three Connecticut attorneys from two firms have volunteered to participate on this team. They are: Rob Gallo and Suzanne Raudenbush from McCarter & English's Hartford office, and Pat Carpenter from Day, Berry & Howard's Stamford office.

Separately, Bruce Douglas, a partner at Bingham McCutchen LLP, volunteered to research a real estate law issue of particular importance to non-profit housing developers.

Bob Kettle was the conduit for a request for help from the Local Initiatives Support Corporation ("LISC") to clarify the real estate licensing requirements for managers of non-profit housing. By providing capital, technical expertise, training and information, LISC helps resident-led, community-based development organizations create affordable housing, community facilities and commercial and industrial projects.

Finally, attorney Clifford Nichols, an associate in Day, Berry & Howard's Stamford office, assisted the Dental Center of Stamford on a pro bono basis at the request of Connecticut Appleseed. Adele Gordon, Executive Director of the Dental Center, was tremendously appreciative of both Mr. Nichols', and Connecticut Appleseed's, effort.

Other Summer News Notes

Institute for Retirement Security Sets October 17 Symposium

Appleseed Board of Advisors member Bob Fiondella created a new and free-standing nonprofit organization at the University of Hartford called The Institute for Retirement Security. The Institute, which partners closely with University of Hartford faculty members, will convene its first major symposium there on October 17.

Entitled "Social Security Reform – The Tip of the Demographic Iceberg", the symposium will start at 1:00 pm in Wilde Auditorium. The general public is welcome. To reserve your free tickets,

Continued on Page 4



Board Member Profile: Monique Rowtham-Kennedy

There are many dimensions to economic hardship in Connecticut. Immense disparity exists among our citizens in terms of access to health care, in educational achievement and opportunity, in public safety and a dozen other quality of life measures. It is these stubborn disparities in America's richest state that fuel Monique's passion for social justice and explain her involvement in Connecticut Appleseed.

The daughter of Jamaican immigrants and now a mother of three school-aged daughters, Monique has first hand experience with the day to day difficulties families face in achieving the "American Dream." As a Hartford resident and wife of a Hartford City Councilman, Monique is particularly sensitive to disparities faced to a much greater degree by residents of Connecticut's cities, particularly minority and low-income families. Her soft voice and broad smile belie intense concern about issues like sustained funding for magnet schools and whether red-lining exists in big-city auto insurance markets. Impeccably credentialed with a Brown University A.B., a Duke University J.D. and experience as a

corporate associate in Day, Berry & Howard's Hartford office, Monique is nevertheless unusually committed to assisting Connecticut's disadvantaged populations.

Like many Appleseed Board members, Monique is hopelessly overcommitted. But she laughs happily about the impossibility of juggling her life responsibilities and accepts a phone call at home "because my kids are depending on me to teach them how to manage responsibilities both inside and outside of the home." However busy she may be, Monique is remarkable for her ability to focus completely, constructively and creatively on whatever she is working on.

As Appleseed's Budget Committee Chair, she always finds ways to improve the clarity and internal consistency of Bob's draft budgets. As a Governance Committee member, she and Chairman Peter Libassi are devoting the time to chart the current and future composition of our Board of Directors and Board of Advisors for discussion in October. As a member of the planning committee for the first annual Connecticut Appleseed fundraising luncheon, she

was successful in attracting the keynote speaker and several key sponsors. She may be "behind the scenes" in many of her Appleseed roles, but she is invaluable.

As Senior Counsel for Northeast Utilities, Monique's work includes representing NU in a variety of economic and policy issues before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and training business units on federal regulatory compliance matters. She is a past board member of Glastonbury ABC, Inc., Greater Hartford YWCA and the Hillstead Museum. She also served on the 2002 City of Hartford Charter Revision Commission which resulted in reformation of the City Charter to support a strong mayor form of government. She is also a volunteer lawyer for the Connecticut Urban Legal Initiative.

Connecticut Appleseed is indeed fortunate that Board Chair Marty Budd was able to recruit Monique to our Board of Directors. She is an effective and compassionate voice for those many citizens whose lives remain a struggle amid this wealthy landscape.

Dental Access Project continued from page 1

other Connecticut cities. Dr. Perl currently chairs CSDA's Dental Access Committee and leads the recruitment of volunteer CSDA members at community health center/dental clinics in Bridgeport, Milford, Stamford and Danbury. With continued success, this pilot will be extended to additional clinics in other parts of the state and Dr. Perl will continue to channel CSDA volunteers.

Legislative Success Opens Connecticut's Doors to Foreign-Trained Dentists

Working on behalf of the CHF in 2004, Appleseed Board member Priya Morganstern drafted revisions to the state's Dental Practices Act to expand the supply of dental professionals serving disadvantaged children. These revisions intended to create for the first time a route to Connecticut licensure for foreign trained dentists. They were put forth in recommendations to the state legislature by a

committee that was chaired by Dr. Robert Galvin, Connecticut Public Health Commissioner, and which included CHF President Pat Baker. In July Governor Rell signed "An Act Concerning Access to Oral Health Care" into law (Public Act No. 05-213) that contains the thrust of Priya's draft.

Interest in this new law is tremendous. Foreign-trained dentists can now gain licensure if they complete 2 years of residency or a fellowship training program in a community or school-based health center affiliated with a school of dentistry in Connecticut. Additional requirements of foreign-trained dentists to become licensed here include passing the state dental exams and completing two years of graduate dental training as a resident dentist in a program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

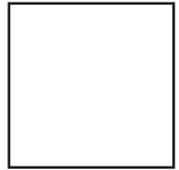
Dean Peter Robinson of UCONN's Dental School reports that "the phone is ringing off the hook with calls from folks all over the world

wanting information on 05-213". Executive Director Bob Kettle has responded to inquiries from at least four dentists trained in Latin America and India who were eagerly watching the legislative progress of this new law.

Further Collaboration to Increase the Supply of Dental Providers

Priya will again provide pro bono legal services to CHF by drafting additional legislative language – a proposed change to the state licensing laws which would allow dental staff to perform a broader range of services. Specifically, this change would give greater roles to dental providers called Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries, or "EFDA's". Three states have already authorized EFDA's to handle routine, reversible services like filling drilled holes, to increase the productivity of dentists themselves.

Drafting legislation to increase the availability of affordable dental services is an Appleseed priority – in no small part because it's a priority for our friends at CHF.



Mission Statement

Our Mission is to develop solutions for the causes, rather than the symptoms, of our state's social problems. We will deploy volunteer lawyers and other professionals to achieve systemic changes through legal and legislative advocacy, negotiation, education and other initiatives.

Pitney Bowes Grant continued from page 1

Danbury prison within 24 months, their children and the caregivers of the children. Both inmates and families will receive in-person and electronic mentoring, while custom-designed email will enable secure remote communications between the mother in jail and families. If the program is proven effective, it will become a national program and will benefit thousands of children across the country as well as their families.

Growing Volunteer Sources of Mentors and Literacy Trainers

IBM previously agreed to support the program through actively recruiting volunteers among their employees and 4,000+ retirees in Connecticut. These volunteers will be trained primarily to assist with literacy training and, secondarily, to work as mentors. Arthur is hopeful to try to similarly involve Pitney Bowes' employees as project volunteers. Discussions are also being held with "Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern CT" and Literacy Volunteers to enlist their participation in training the mentors. Reading is Fundamental (of which Arthur is Vice Chair of the Board of Directors) will supply the books to be used in the program.

Measurement and Evaluation Consultants Get Underway

In late July a team from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice began selecting the 30 inmates at the Danbury Correctional Institute who will participate in the pilot test. Professors and graduate students from John Jay will conduct assessment interviews with the inmates. The John Jay team will also get first-hand feedback to better define evaluation measures for the project's success.

Continuing Encouragement from the U.S. Bureau of Prisons

After being appointed by President Clinton in 1997 to the Federal Prison Industries Commission, Arthur White was asked to take on a broader role as Educational Advisor to the U.S. Bureau of Prisons. The Bureau of Prisons has encouraged this literacy project from the start. As a result, we have an unparalleled opportunity to make the program available nationwide to the 115 Federal prisons.

Pro Bono Resources continued from page 2

call 860-768-4011 or 800-274-8587.

The Institute leverages academic expertise in demographics, population studies, regional economics and communications to educate state residents and inform regional and national policymakers about risks and stresses in U.S. financial systems that should be of concern to citizens of all ages. Helping Connecticut's communities understand the magnitude of the liability they face from their defined benefit pension plans and serving as a regional resource to cities and towns seeking to assess their ability to fulfill their pension obligations are also among the Institute's initial objectives.

Yankelovich Group Donates Office Space to Appleseed

The Yankelovich Group is graciously providing Executive Director Bob Kettle space in its Norwalk offices. The Yankelovich Group is a nationally prominent marketing research firm and the leading U.S. authority on consumer lifestyle trends. Appleseed Board member Arthur White is a co-founder and Vice Chairman of the Yankelovich Group.