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Belltown Community Service Site  
Photo by Andy Sontag

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# Seattle Community Court News

## Seattle Wins Community Court Mentor Site Designation by USDOJ

By Bob Hood

The United States Department of Justice (USDOJ) has selected Seattle Community Court as one of only three Community Court Mentor sites in the country following a national competition completed on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. In addition to Seattle, the other two sites named are located in Hartford, CN and Dallas, TX. The three sites will form a Community Court Mentor Site Network which will be administered by the Center for Court Innovation (CCI), the New York-based think tank that developed Midtown Community Court and the Redhook Justice Center. The mentor court sites will host site visits, share best practices through trainings and conferences, and help field requests for technical assistance from localities interested in developing their own community courts.

"The mentor site courts will serve as a peer network, supporting the Center for Court Innovation in advancing the community court model. By selecting high-quality programs in various parts of the U.S., we hope to make it easier for interested jurisdictions to make site visits and see a community court at work," said Kim Norris, Senior Policy Advisor for Adjudications at the Bureau of Justice Assistance, USDOJ.

Seattle Community Court was created as the 26<sup>th</sup> community court in the nation and the first in Washington in March of 2005, through a partnership of Seattle Municipal Court, the Seattle City Attorney's Office, and Associated Counsel for the Accused. The Seattle Community Court transitioned from a

downtown focus to citywide in 2007 as a result of a previous federal grant under the USDOJ's *Community Based Problem Solving Criminal Justice Initiatives* grant program. In four years of operations, the Seattle Community Court has seen over 3,000 low risk quality of life crimes offenders perform over 20,000 hours of community service and make over 3,150 social services contacts as part of their community court sentences. An additional 1,000 pretrial diversion candidates have performed another 10,000 hours of community service monitored through the program.

The three members of the Seattle Community Court's current Executive Committee were gratified by USDOJ's recognition of Seattle's effort. Seattle Community Court Judge Ron Mamiya, Seattle City Attorney Tom Carr, and ACA Director Don Madsen welcomed the new award as "a golden opportunity to raise the profile of what we are doing here, learn from colleagues, and help other jurisdictions to develop similarly effective programs of their own.

To learn more about the Community Court Mentor Site Network, go to: <http://www.courtinnovation.org>

## Seattle Community Court Celebrates 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

By Bob Hood

Seattle Community Court celebrated its fourth birthday during a meeting of its Community Advisory Board (CAB) on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Over 75 people attended including City Council members Nick Licata and Bruce Harrell; Seattle Municipal Court Presiding Judge Edsonya Charles, and Judges Ron

Mamiya and Fred Bonner; Seattle City Attorney Tom Carr; Director Don Madsen and former director Dave Chapman of Associated Counsel for Accused; and Craig Thompson of the Beacon Hill Alliance of Neighbors.

There was plenty of great news to celebrate and it was a great opportunity to thank and recognize the efforts of the many people who have helped to make Seattle Community Court what it is today. First and foremost, was the fourth anniversary of a community court that has within a short period gone from a pilot effort to a national leader of the community court movement. Second,



No birthday is complete without a cake

Beacon Hill Alliance of Neighbors was awarded a Community Partnership Award for their development with us of a community service site where Seattle Community Court defendants do meaningful work to help clean up the neighborhood. (See companion story, *Alliance*, in column 2). Third, there was a heartfelt story of personal triumph delivered in the remarks of Daryl Ann F., who described a long but ultimately successful battle against drug addiction that was aided by the intervention of Seattle Community Court. Also featured was a slide presentation of photos taken at various community service sites and “graduation” ceremonies of successful completers in Seattle Community Court.

The birthday week celebration was capped off in the following week by the USDOJ announcement of Seattle Community Court as a national Community Court Mentor site. For more photos of the Community Advisory Board festivities, see the last page of this newsletter.

## Beacon Hill Alliance of Neighbors Honored at CAB Meeting

By Stephanie Tschida

The Beacon Hill Alliance of Neighbors was recognized with a Community Partnership Award at the March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Seattle Community Court’s Community Advisory Board. The award, presented to Alliance member Craig Thompson by Community Court Executive Committee Members Judge Ron Mamiya, City Attorney Tom Carr, and ACA Director Don Madsen, was made in recognition of the Alliance’s outstanding partnership with us in building a community service site for Seattle Community Court defendants on Beacon Hill.



Craig Thompson, of the Beacon Alliance of Neighbor’s addresses the CAB in the presence of the Community Court Executive Committee

The Alliance was one of our earliest partners during the period of time that Seattle Community Court expanded to citywide. They continue to be an excellent partner in identifying locations that provide meaningful work for defendants and visible benefits to the community. Like many of our community-based partners, some of their activities enable defendants to work side-by-side with community members, reflecting the restorative justice values of our community court program. We are extremely grateful to have their support and assistance.

For the past two years, on every 2nd Saturday, Craig Thompson has loaded his truck with tools and equipment and meets one of our AmeriCorps members to lead pretrial diversion defendants in

clearing walkways, laying mulch, maintaining an off-leash area and other significant efforts to create more usable and friendly green spaces.



Neighbors and Community Court defendants receive words of thanks at the start of a project

The Alliance is involved in many different neighborhood restoration activities such as litter cleanups and environmental restoration in parks and greenbelts, on public stairways, and around schools and homes. Typical of these efforts is some community service featured on the Alliance’s website, wherein four Seattle Community Court defendants helped gather 21 bags of trash, 100 beverage containers, a palette, and sort 6 cubic yards of compostable plant cuttings for pickup this summer.

The Beacon Hill Alliance of Neighbors is yet another remarkable example of how cooperation between involved neighborhood members and city government can work to improve the quality of life for everyone. To learn more about their efforts to restore their neighborhood, you can go to their website at:

<http://www.cityofseattle.net/ban/>



Community Court defendants (vested) join Beacon Alliance of Neighbors members in a Clean and Green restoration project.

## Meet Seattle Community Court's Court Staff

By Eunice Yang, AmeriCorps Team

As any lawyer or judge will tell you, the work of a court would never be done without the support of a hard-working court staff. This is particularly true in a fast paced, high volume courtroom like Seattle Community Court. In our last issue we featured Probation Court Monitors Jason Pina and Kent Hay. In this issue we focus on three other critical people, Court Clerk Janice Mason, Bailiff Lynn Milloy, and Strategic Advisor Tricia Lapitan.



Strategic Advisor Tricia Lapitan, Court Clerk Janice Mason, and Bailiff Lynn Milloy.

Janice has been with the Community Court for over two years, and as its primary court clerk, is responsible for managing and updating the thousands of court files that flow through the Court each year. She is also responsible for updating the Court's records management system.

Lynn has been with the Community Court for a similar period, and as its bailiff, is responsible for providing defendants with copies of court orders, filling out paperwork related to their release or entry into jail custody, and confirming other jurisdiction holds.

Tricia has been with the Community Court almost since its inception when she served as a volunteer through the Court Resources Center. Later, she took a formal position with the Court as a Strategic Advisor. Throughout both periods, she has been primarily responsible for managing and reporting outcome data for the Court, data which has been reported to both the Seattle

City Council in support of the Community Court Program and as part of our federal grant responsibilities. She has also trained and managed the large cadre of volunteers who work in both the Court Resources Center and within the Seattle Community Court.

Without the hard work, dedication, and professionalism of these three people, the Seattle Community Court would not be the place it is today.

## Focus On: Hartford Community Court

By Jeff Atwood, AmeriCorps Team

In this edition, we highlight Hartford Community Court, located in Hartford, Connecticut; another member of the USDOJ's newly formed Community Court Mentor Network. Developed as the 3rd community court in the nation in 1998, Hartford Community Court has long been a role model for others jurisdictions interested in developing their own. Hartford Community Court currently serves a City of 130,000 residents and 17 neighborhoods.

According to Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton, the Hartford Community Court works for the public by "providing a meaningful judicial response to low-level quality of life crimes." The court works for defendants by providing them with access to social service agencies, many of which can be difficult to navigate alone. Hartford Community Court's "chief asset, he says "may be its staff's dual commitment to holding people accountable while giving them the opportunity to make productive changes in their lives".



Hartford Community Court Building

Pleasanton credits Hartford's success to a community that is not only supportive of Community Court, but assisted in its creation. In the mid-1990's Neighborhood Advisory Boards were established in Hartford to work in partnership with the police and other city departments to address priorities chosen by those neighborhoods. Their concerns led to the establishment of Hartford Community Court. The court opened its doors on November 10, 1998.

Pleasanton also credits the court's success to a series of committed judges who believe in the Community Court model. In 1996 Judge Raymond Norko was appointed to lead the creation of the Hartford Community Court and foster its development. He is largely responsible for developing the Court's processing and sanctioning procedures and served as the court's first Presiding Judge from 1998 to early 2003. Judge Jorge Simon followed and increased the involvement of mental health treatment in the Court's operations. Judge Curtissa Cofield built on the Court's foundations expanding the Prostitution Protocol program to include extensive follow-up. Judge Norko returned to preside in the Court in October of 2008. Each of these judges have put their own individual stamp on the Court and has helped it to develop into the model program that it is today.

Hartford Community Court celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary last fall. It has been an impressive 10 years and their success has helped to inspire the creation of dozens of community courts domestically and internationally. Given its history, it was not surprising that the United States Department of Justice chose it to serve as a Community Court mentor site. We look forward to working with them as a mentor site.

You can learn more about Hartford Community Court by visiting their website at:

<http://www.jud.ct.gov/external/super/spsess.htm>

## Spotlight on a Community Court Success Story:

Darryl Ann F.

*Three times was a charm for Community Court defendant Darryl Ann F., who recently spoke at Seattle Community Court's anniversary celebration. Her first two trips through Community Court resulted in failure as the temptation of drug addiction overwhelmed her ability to complete. But things are different now. This time, before starting her community service sentence, she asked for it to be postponed so that she could drug rehabilitation first and thereafter successfully completed all of her Community Court requirements.*

*Darryl Ann F. is not an ordinary Community Court defendant, she holds a degree in psychology with a minor in ethnic studies from Western Michigan University, and has a certificate in counseling from a school in California. She traces her drug addiction problems back to when she was 17 and started to smoke marijuana, after moving to Seattle in 2000. Within six months she ended up homeless and had graduated to more serious drugs. It has taken her over 7 years to get clean again, but she is hoping this time it will stick.*

*Now she is living at the Union Gospel Mission and is sober, and trying to stay that way. Her view is to take things one day at a time, but eventually she wants to work for non-profits, and maybe even Community Court. Now that she knows every "nook and cranny" of Seattle, she thinks she'll be able to help others. "Sometimes the only way to understand it is to experience it," she says as she strives to "turn the negative into something positive."*

*Darryl Ann found it particularly ironic that her last case involved stealing from Bartell Drugs. She did her community service helping out Medic One's Vials of Life, a program co-sponsored by Bartell Drugs. "Community Court has saved my life by giving me another opportunity to do the right thing," she says.*

## New Community Service Site Partnerships

*By Tomilyn Rupert, AmeriCorps Team*

New connections are being made all over the city as Seattle Community Court expands its community service partnerships to even more of Seattle's numerous neighborhoods. Community Court defendants do community service in neighborhoods affected by their crimes and the more sites there are, the better the chance that affected neighborhoods gain the benefits of community service done by such defendants. The Ballard Senior Center, St. Vincent dePaul, and the Lake City Chamber of Commerce are some of our newest partners and each site offers a unique perspective for defendants and a different way to help restore the community.

Late last fall, we added the Ballard Senior Center, which gives Seattle Community Court defendants the chance to assist a group that promotes the independence of seniors and provides them with hot meals and information on important things like Medicare, bequests, and taxes. The center is located in the northwestern Seattle neighborhood of Ballard and Community Court defendants help serve meals to elderly people who use the Center.

In early January, Seattle Community Court defendants began helping out operations at St. Vincent DePaul in the Georgetown neighborhood, where that organization operates a food bank and a thrift store. Defendants help sort clothing for resale, repack and distribute food, and do general cleanup at the site. St. Vincent dePaul's mission is to help those in need, By allowing our defendants to work and contribute to this worthy charitable organizations, defendants get a chance to give back to the community as well as become more familiar with the services they offer makes for an ideal partnership.

One of our newest partnerships is with the Lake City Chamber of Commerce, a northeastern Seattle neighborhood.

Seattle Community Court defendants help to make this neighborhood a better place by picking up trash and debris from sidewalks and public right of ways and by painting out graffiti.

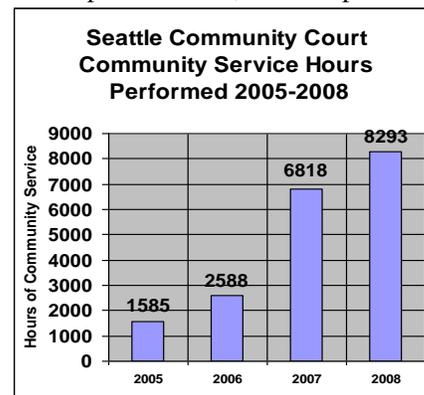
These sites are just a small sample of the many places across the City where we have community service partner sites. As defendants put in meaningful hours of work restoring these neighborhoods, we hope that their eyes will be opened to the impact of their offenses and some of the many social services offered in the city and how the city is prepared to help them get back on track.

The Seattle Community Court Ameri-Corp Team continues to reach out to new sites and is in talks with several other new locations. If you are aware of any other opportunities for such partnering, call Stephanie Tschida at the City Attorney's Office at 684-7778.

## By the Numbers: Seattle Community Court Stats

*By Bob Hood*

The Seattle Community Court program completed its third complete calendar year with a banner performance of community service completed by Community Court defendants. For 2008, community court defendants completed nearly 8,300 hours of community service at fifteen different community service sites located throughout the City of Seattle. This increase occurred despite the fact that the total number of defendants seen in Community Court this year declined by 47 compared to 2007, a 5% drop. The



increased hours were driven by the fact that 2008 defendants averaged nearly 2.2 more hours of completed community service than their 2007 counterparts, a 29% increase. This is a testament to the great work being done by the Court's probation monitors, Jason Pina and Kent Hay, our AmeriCorps Team, and our community service site partners.

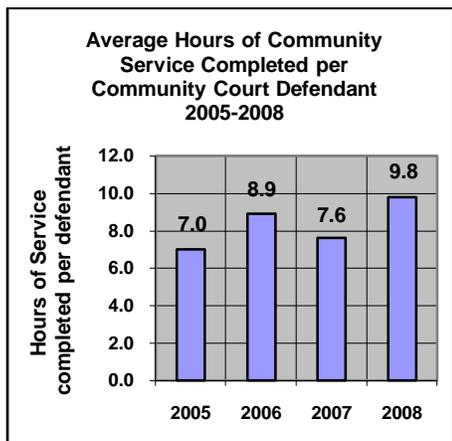
## By the Numbers: AmeriCorps Team Delivers Community Service Hours

By *Stephanie Tschida*

Most of the avid readers of this newsletter have already heard of much of great work that the six member AmeriCorps Team contributes to the Seattle Community Court Program. But, part of the contribution we haven't highlighted is the many hours of community service that they themselves directly perform while monitoring and supporting our community court and pretrial diversion program defendants.

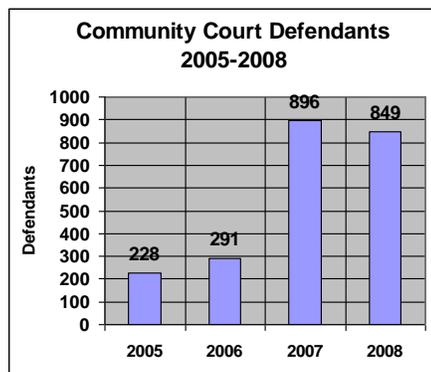
Just Serve, the umbrella nonprofit organization we partner with to staff the AmeriCorps Team positions, is what is identified by the Corporation for National Service as a direct service organization, one that is dedicated to providing direct service to address unmet community needs. That being the case, program participants are required as part of their responsibilities to do "direct service" in support of the communities they serve. Thus if you were to visit one of our community service partner sites you would see not only community court defendants doing neighborhood cleanup activities but would also see our AmeriCorps Team members working right alongside of them doing the same kind of work.

Although we do not track their community service hours specifically, AmeriCorps Team members estimate that approximately 70% of all the hours they commit to the City of Seattle are done doing this direct service. Because the program commitment calls for providing 1,700 hours annually per member per year, we estimate that our AmeriCorps Team members themselves have contributed roughly 6,230 hours of community service from 2007 through the First Quarter of 2009, while working along side of and monitoring our Community Court defendants.



In the process, defendants provided street and neighborhood cleanup in Belltown, Capitol Hill, and First Hill, environmental restoration in Beacon Hill, West Seattle, and the International District, assisted foodbanks in Ballard, Georgetown, and the Central District, and painted out graffiti in Lake City. For a complete map of the community service sites being used, see page 7.

With the addition of some defendants during the first quarter of 2009, Seattle Community Court passed the 2,500 defendant milestone for the life of the project since 2005.



### Upcoming Events

Seattle Community Court  
Community Advisory Board Meeting  
Friday July 21<sup>st</sup> 2:30-4:00 p.m.  
Bertha Knight Landis Room  
Seattle City Hall  
500 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Seattle WA.

### Community Service Site Schedule

#### Belltown

8:30-4:30 June 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup>  
23<sup>rd</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> July 1<sup>st</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup>  
22<sup>nd</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup>

#### Beacon Alliance of Neighbors

8:30-4:30 June 13<sup>th</sup> July 11<sup>th</sup>

#### Danny Woo Community Garden

12:30-4:30 June 1<sup>st</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> July 6<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup>  
8:30-4:30 June 3<sup>rd</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> July 27<sup>th</sup>

#### Capitol Hill Chamber

8:30-4:30 June 5<sup>th</sup> July 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### Colman Neighbors Association

9:00-1:00 June 6<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> July 18<sup>th</sup>

#### Colman Neighborhood P-Patch

8:30-4:30 June 25<sup>th</sup>

#### South /White Center CDA

8:30-4:30 June 11<sup>th</sup> July 9<sup>th</sup>

#### First Hill Improvement Association

8:30-11:30 June 1<sup>st</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> July 6<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup>

#### Lake City Chamber

8:30-4:30 June 4<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 16<sup>th</sup>

#### Meadowbrook Community Chamber

8:30-4:30 June 4<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> July 2<sup>nd</sup> 13<sup>th</sup>  
16<sup>th</sup>

#### New Holly Market Garden

8:30-4:30 June 12<sup>th</sup>

#### New Holley P-Patch

8:30-4:30 June 12<sup>th</sup>

#### Red Wagon Graffiti Paintout

9:00-1:00 June 13<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> July 18, 25<sup>th</sup>

#### St. Vincent DePaul

8:30-4:30 June 11<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> July 9<sup>th</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup>

## Spotlight on "In their own words"

Defendants comment on their community service and community court experience at their "graduation" ceremonies:

"It was an interesting experience working with the Millionaire Club and seeing that ah, what can happen if you really don't have it together and where you can end up being. So I can see where things can lead if stuff gets out of hand. Not pretty."

Mark C.

"Well, I actually enjoyed it, I enjoyed working with the Metropolitan Improvement District. They want me to come in and fill an application out. Well it just, it taught me, yunno that what I did was wrong and yunno I had to pay for it. I signed up for GAU and foodstamps downstairs this morning. And housing and also I have an appointment to get my driver's license, take the test in the morning."

Roy P.

"It felt really good. It made me feel whole inside. I loved all of it and the people. Thank you so very much."

Kristi S.

"I had some time to think about what I did. It was stupid. I appreciated the opportunity your Honor. You won't see me again."

Ronnie H.

"Yeah, I got reading glasses. The Native American Center is helping me to get my checks. Its been well worth it. It's a great program."

Yolanda F.

"I learned a lot of things. Helped me to look at the whole thing from a different perspective."

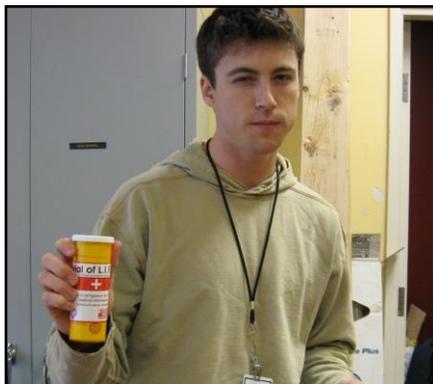
Kim H.

## Community Court Participants Help Medic One Save Lives

By: Tomilyn Rupert, AmeriCorps Team

A common theme expressed by many Seattle Community Court defendants at their graduation ceremony is how the court has changed or saved their life. Now, because of an innovative community service partnership we have with the Medic One Foundation, some of these defendants are able to return the favor by providing assistance to others through the Vials of Life Program.

Medic One's Vials of Life (Lifesaving Information for Emergencies), are 5-inch "prescription" plastic vials containing blank medical forms that you can fill out with your medical history and keep in your fridge. The vials also contain a Vial of L.I.F.E sticker for your window or front door, and a magnet for your fridge. Emergency responders are trained to look in the fridge for such containers if they respond to your home in an emergency and you are unresponsive.



AmeriCorps Team Member Mark Braseth displays a Medic One Vial of Life

"The Vial of L.I.F.E. Program is designed to speak for you when you are unable to speak for yourself. The vial contains important medical information that can assist emergency personnel in administering the proper medical treatment," said Jan Sprake, executive director of the Medic One Foundation.

Seattle Community Court participants assist this effort by placing the blank medical form, window sticker, and fridge magnet into the vials and labeling them on the outside. It is a relatively

easy but important indoor project, and because the vials are also used to raise money for Medic One Foundation, it is a great way to help out this worthy charitable organization.



Community Court defendants preparing Medic One Vials of Life

The Medic One Foundation developed the program in partnership with Bartell Drugs, which sells the containers for \$1 at area stores, with more than half of the net proceeds being donated to the Medic One Foundation.

The Foundation works to support rigorous paramedic training and continuing medical education; ensures the quality of pre-hospital emergency care through independent medical review; sponsors targeted research on methods to improve patient outcomes and prevent sudden cardiac death; and equips emergency medical service providers by funding special equipment needs to help them in better serving their communities.

Helping to assemble the vials gives Seattle Community Court defendants the opportunity to make a difference in two ways at once. Not only are they helping to support an important Seattle organization, but they're also directly helping to save lives. For more information on the Vials of Life program go to:

[www.mediconefoundation.org](http://www.mediconefoundation.org)

[www.bartelldrugs.com](http://www.bartelldrugs.com)



Seattle Community Court Presiding Judge Ron Mamiya addresses the audience.



Assembled audience listens to speakers.



Former ACA Director Dave Chapman, current Director Don Madsen, and City Attorney Tom Carr share a moment.



Assembled audience listens to speakers.



4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Birthday Cake.



ACA Attorneys Amy Bowles, Art Almeretz, and Burns Peterson.



Seattle City Attorney Tom Carr addresses the audience.



AmeriCorps Team Members Mark Braseth and Lamar Lewis.



Probation Monitors Kent Hay and Jason Pina and Judge Fred Bonner.



Community Court Prosecutor Tuere Sala shares a light moment with Community Court Probation Monitors Jason Pina & Kent Hay.



Assembled audience hears from more speakers.



ACA Director Don Madsen addresses the audience.

More 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Pictures, March 13, 2009

**Seattle Community Court**  
**June 2, 2009**  
**Community Service Sites**

