

# SANCTIONS

## UPDATE

2 0 0 6

*The canoe leaves from Middletown on it's three-day journey down the Connecticut River and across Long Island Sound*



**“WE WANT TO DO PROJECTS THAT LEAVE PERMANENT MARKS IN THE COMMUNITY -- SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST PICKING UP LITTER. WE LOOK FOR PROJECTS THAT ALSO SEND A MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY THAT THE SANCTION WAS APPROPRIATE, AND THAT THE COMMUNITY HAS BENEFITED.”**

JAMES GREENE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PROGRAM AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT  
COURT SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION  
CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

### *Benefits to the State and to the Clients*

*The Judicial Branch's CSSD community service work crews have a strong and proud history of giving back to their communities throughout the state. Over the years, program participants have contributed thousands and thousands of hours building playgrounds and working for myriad agencies and events, including Special Olympics and Habitat for Humanity. In the process, clients learn life and work skills and receive treatments that address and reverse negative behaviors that caused their involvement with the justice system in the first place.*

*The two major projects outlined here are unique and particularly impressive. Clients have helped – in a very hands-on fashion – to give back not just to their local communities, but to the history of Connecticut.*

*The Hon. William J. Lavery  
Chief Court Administrator*

Two unique community service projects presented themselves to the Judicial Branch this spring. In what ways were they unique? In their scope. They surpassed Judicial's goal of providing community service crews with projects that help clients contribute and give back to their community. These projects provided clients an opportunity to participate in and have an impact on resurrecting and preserving the cultural history of the State of Connecticut for future generations.

The first project -- Journey For Change -- was a collaborative effort between the Mohegan Tribe and Friends of the Connecticut River. Clients not only carved an historically accurate canoe out of a 60-foot cottonwood tree, but also paddled it from Middletown across

the Sound to Long Island, recreating centuries-old Native American trade routes. This was a challenging and arduous task that a group of young men from Youth Center for Change accomplished with stunning success.

The second project involved rebuilding a beloved state landmark – the New London boardwalk. New London simply could not have accomplished the boardwalk restoration as soon as it did, if at all, without the hard work of Judicial Branch community service crews.

It was clear from client responses that they, in turn, were proud of and appreciated the long-term effects of their hard labors – both as measured by their contributions to the state and as measured by their own sense of personal accomplishment. 🍀

# Journey to SET OUR SPIRITS FREE

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, Charlie “Two Bears” Strickland of the Mohegan Tribe, clothed in his native buckskin vestments, feathered headdress and moccasins, blessed an Eastern cottonwood tree that was about to be floated a mile down the Connecticut River from Wilcox Island to Middletown. About 15 clients from the Youth Center for Change looked on, unsure of what they were getting themselves in for. These clients were facing the prospect of turning this giant tree into a 35-foot, seaworthy dugout canoe. Even though many of them had never been in a boat before, six of them would then paddle the canoe 30 miles down the Connecticut River and across Long Island Sound to Greenport, Long Island.

“EARLY IN THIS PROCESS IT BECAME IMPORTANT THAT THERE MUST BE MORE TO THIS PROJECT THAN JUST SIMPLY LABOR. THERE WAS A CULTURAL COMPONENT WHICH WAS REALLY IMPORTANT SO THAT THE CLIENTS KNEW THEY WERE WORKING ON SOMETHING THAT HAD A SPIRITUALITY TO IT.”

RON KLATTENBERG  
MIDDLETOWN CITY COUNCIL  
MEMBER, AND  
PROJECT ORGANIZER

*Why were they doing this?*

*Member of  
the Mohegan Tribe  
ask the Spirits to  
bless the tree.*



## THE BACKGROUND

### GENESIS OF THE PROJECT

In May 2006, Judge Robert L. Holzberg, who presides over Criminal Matters in Superior Court in Middletown, approached Jim Greene, deputy director for program and staff development for the Judicial Branch’s Court Support Services Division, with a proposal. How about involving young people on probation in an historical re-enactment project that would pool the joint expertise and resources of the Mohegan Tribe and the “Friends of the Connecticut River” non-

profit organization? Historical research had indicated that, in the 1700s, Middletown was the busiest port for Native American tribes who brought goods down the 400-mile Connecticut River. These goods were subsequently transported to Long Island for trade with the Shinnicock Tribe.

Clients were challenged to transform a cottonwood tree into an historically accurate dugout canoe that might have been used for such voyages; then to paddle

it down the centuries-old trade route used by Indian tribes – from Middletown, CT, across Long Island Sound to Greenport, Long Island, N.Y. Judge Holzberg and Greene agreed that this experience would not only expand the physical, historical and cultural horizons of the clients, but also give the participants a great sense of achievement upon completion.

## WHO WERE THE CLIENTS?

Participants were clients of the Youth Center for Change, run by Community Solutions, Inc. (a private non-profit criminal justice agency under contract to the Judicial Branch). These court-involved young people ranged in age from 18-21. About 15 clients were transported upriver for the initial blessing of the tree; up to 25 clients were involved at some point in the work; and six volunteered and qualified to be the actual paddlers who made the final trip a reality and a success.

## THE PROJECT

### GETTING THE TREE

An Eastern cottonwood tree -- 60 feet in length and 12 feet in circumference -- had been identified on Wilcox Island under the Arrigoni Bridge. Ron Klattenberg, Middletown City Council member and project organizer, observed that there were several auspicious signs for this project. The first was the weather. The massive tree identified to be cut down for the project fell during a storm; then subsequent days of rain helped wash the tree trunk down parallel to the river for launching.

The cottonwood was floated downriver to Harbor Park in Middletown. Clients went upriver to watch the process. Not only were the clients watching, so were police, fire and Coast Guard boats. Everyone marveled at how George Frick, president of Friends of the Connecticut River, was able to manage to straddle the tree without falling off, then to bring it to shore.

### CRAFTING THE CANOE: TRIAL AND ERROR

Now it was time for the AIC clients to begin the arduous and grueling process of chopping, burning, and carving the tree into a canoe. Under the guidance of George Frick and Ron Klattenberg, the young men set to work hollowing and carving out the dugout canoe. For a month they burned the wood to make it soft, then dug out the tree, all the while using primitive tools. Each day they carved, cooked lunch over the burning embers, then carved some more. While there are no historical records as to how the Indians in fact crafted these boats, Frick had some knowledge of the methods and type of shape that would be necessary to make this journey successful.

By mid-June the boat was ready to be tested. The clients put on their life jackets and paddled it out 50 feet. It capsized. The reaction might well have been frustration. Instead it engendered renewed resolve. The clients were more determined than ever to get more wood out of the boat so it would be more buoyant. Back to the burning and carving. An eight-seat canoe became a six-seater, as wooden bulkheads were removed.



*The tree begins to take form*

*When asked for his response to the trip two months later, one of the clients who was part of the trip observed:*

**“IT WAS A GOOD EXPERIENCE. WE HAD TO DO A LOT OF TEAMWORK. IT WAS TIRING AND VERY HARD WORK, BUT IT WAS A LOT OF FUN. BASICALLY, WE DID IT! I NEVER DID ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE. IT GAVE ME A WHOLE NEW FOCUS. I REALIZED THAT WHEN I PUT MY MIND TO DO SOMETHING I COULD DO IT. IT WAS VERY INTERESTING LEARNING ABOUT THE INDIANS TOO. I THINK ABOUT IT LOTS AND CAN’T BELIEVE I DID THAT. BUT I LIKED IT.”**

ONE OF THE PADDLERS  
YOUTH CENTER  
FOR CHANGE CLIENT

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### THE CELEBRATORY SEND-OFF

The canoe was finally finished and ready to launch from Middletown. Toward the end of the process, an elder of the Mohegan tribe had appeared and volunteered to paint the canoe with traditional native symbols in bright colors. On July 8th, there were Journey for Change banners, speeches, a ceremony, a celebratory lunch and festive performances by dancers and the Unity of Nations Mohegan Drummers. Several members of the Mohegan Tribe came in native dress for the ceremony and for the spiritual blessing before the launching. At noon the clients cast off – six clients paddling and Hatchet, a Mohegan, serving as the rudder in the stern.

### THE VOYAGE

The first stop was the Goodspeed Opera House, 12 miles downriver. On the second day, the clients paddled to Essex, landing at the Connecticut River Museum. On the third day, Hatchet directed the canoe across Long Island Sound. Under his guidance, instead of paddling directly to Orient Point (which would have been the shortest mileage), they went southwest, then southeast so the tide would help bring them in. Indeed, the second auspicious event was the changing of the tides, which worked to the clients' advantage.

The clients camped out for a well-deserved sleep at Orient Point before their next day's final destination, Greenport, Long Island. They awoke to the third auspicious event -- a sighting of a bald eagle on one of the piles. Orient Point residents did not remember having seen a bald eagle in recent memory, and the bald eagle has very powerful Native American symbolism.

### THE CELEBRATION ON LONG ISLAND

There were 20 mile-per-hour headwinds for the eight miles from Orient Point to Greenport, but they arrived successfully. Adults and children from the community turned out, and the mayor of Greenport, Dave Kapell, gave them a key to the city over lunch. A very tired, but proud group of clients returned to Connecticut on the ferry.

### THE RETURN OF THE CANOE

The canoe was towed to the Mohegan Sun Cultural Center and will be on display when adequate facilities have been built. ■



*Youth Center for Change Community  
Service Coordinator, Flannigan Smith,  
leads his crew into some rough water.*




*Mayor of Greenport, Long Island, Dave Kapell, awards keys to the city to the crew members.*


*The dedication that the kids put into it was incredible. For them to do a project like this and see it to completion will last with them. It was hard and tiring work. Plus, we were out camping for three days. They were exhausted.*

FLANNIGAN SMITH  
COMMUNITY SERVICE  
COORDINATOR, AND ON-SITE  
PROJECT AND TRIP SUPERVISOR  
YOUTH CENTER FOR CHANGE  
COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS, INC.

## Additional BONUSES of this PROJECT

### FOR CSSD CLIENTS

 **Positive interaction with clients and police:** While historical re-enactment was a primary goal, safety concerns were paramount throughout. The canoe was escorted down the river and across the rolling waters of Long Island Sound by the Connecticut State Police Dive Unit, the Middletown, Old Saybrook and Southhold Police Departments, harbor patrol and support boats. Douglass Marine provided additional safety boat support in Long Island. The added bonus of this involvement with safety crews was, as Jim Greene observed, “that there became a bond between the kids and the police, because the police were so extremely encouraging.”

 **Expansion of CSSD program offerings:** It was necessary to buy tents and sleeping gear for this program. Camping will now become an integral part of CSSD programming. Community service in many instances will be followed by recreation and camping at state parks.

### FOR MIDDLETOWN CITIZENS

Ron Klattenberg, Middletown City Council member, observed: “The City of Middletown was absolutely honored to be part of this project. It revitalized our waterfront and created an excitement within the community – police, fire, Coast Guard and a lot of volunteers. We had more people than ever before going down to the river to see how the kids were doing. From a community point of view it was a good thing for the city.”

*background photo: In the middle of the Sound under the watch and support of the Connecticut State Police Dive Unit.*

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# REBUILDING *Lives and History*



*The work site at the Ocean Beach boardwalk was well marked.*

## The legendary half mile-long New London boardwalk on one of Connecticut's busiest beaches had been condemned.

Although the City of New London had purchased Brazilian mahogany for repairs, it did not have the funds or personnel to accomplish this projected \$2 million project. Safety issues and possible attendant lawsuits finally forced the boardwalk to close.

Jim Greene, deputy director for program and staff development for the Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division, talked with Dave Sugrue, Ocean Beach park manager, and assured him that the Judicial Branch could provide many able-bodied workers for a long period of time to help make this project a reality. As it turned

out, more than 200 clients from the State's Alternative Incarceration Center (AIC) network worked over a period of two months to help make it possible.

Community service crews from New London, Willimantic, Danielson, New Haven, Middletown and Hartford worked four to five days a week. On any given day, 30-40 clients were helping with the demolition. They were digging holes, pulling out rotted boards, ripping out rusty nails and shoring up the underside. Every single old plank of this 40-yard wide boardwalk had to be torn out with crowbars. Every single new plank

had to be fastened with new screws. By the end, tens of thousands of planks were torn up and replaced.

Professionals did the more complicated work, including laying down the wooden planks, but, as Dave Sugrue observed in April of the volunteer force in general and the AIC crews in particular: "The AIC volunteers have done some of the most grueling work and substantial cleanup. We would never be this far along without this program." Thanks to the work of the Judicial Branch's community service crews and other volunteers, this historic landmark was able not only to

All planks on the half-mile boardwalk had to be removed.



be restored, but to be reopened by Memorial Day.

More skilled clients were assigned to a carpenter for reinstallation work. As a result of this experience, a few clients were hired for permanent jobs. Several more felt changed by the experience. "I can always come back and say I helped do the boardwalk," said one 27-year-old who was on probation on a narcotics charge. "It's nice to be a part of something like this. It was a great community service project." Another, who contributed all of his required 250 hours working on the boardwalk, observed: "It's gratifying. It gives me a sense of accomplishment. Doing that amount of community service teaches me the value of work. The next dollar I'm going to earn is going to be a little more important to me." ■



The new planks are fastened in place.

# DIVERSITY DAY

Hundreds of Judicial Branch employees participated in Diversity Day, held on June 23 at the Southern Connecticut State University Student Center in New Haven and sponsored by the Judicial Branch Advisory Committee on Diversity. This event celebrated those Judicial Branch employees who invest time and commitment above and beyond the requirements of their job to ensure that program and service projects -- such as the Journey for Change, the boardwalk rebuilding, the Special Olympics, and mentoring programs -- work smoothly and successfully in ways that benefit both clients and community.

## INSPIRATIONAL KEYNOTE

The Honorable Judge Michael A. Mack, deputy chief court administrator, provided opening remarks. He was followed by the keynote speaker, William "Bill" D. Pinkney, adventurer, author and lecturer. Pinkney was the first African-American to sail solo around the world in 1992, choosing the southern route around the five great capes through waters considered to be the most dangerous on the globe. Pinkney embarked on a second trip in 1998, setting sail from the Caribbean on an historic voyage to retrace the "Middle Passage" slave routes used during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. He also served as captain of the replica of the slave ship Amistad.

## RECOGNITION

The Connecticut Judicial Branch's approach to community service has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice for its innovative and effective programs. Jim Greene presented highlights of some of the successful efforts that have partnered crews of Judicial employees with clients performing community service. There was also a video presentation designed by Amanda Gordon honoring employees who have been active in volunteering.

## DIVERSITY AWARDS

The Diversity Award this year went to a group of people. "This award recognizes Judicial Branch employees who have improved services to members of the public by promoting a better understanding of the needs of a culturally diverse citizenry. This year the award will be used to recognize a group of employees who have worked together to bring to fruition a Mentoring Program. Although the membership of the committee has fluctuated throughout the past few years, a core group of individuals has stayed together in the belief that the program would benefit employees and the Branch and ultimately result in improved services."

## WORKSHOPS

In addition to the celebration, workshops were held in the afternoon to expand the skills and sensitivities of employee volunteers who work with Judicial Branch clients. A wide array of workshops were offered twice during the afternoon, and certificates of completion were awarded to those who attended two workshops.

The Judicial Branch applauds these employees who go the extra yard to help make a difference in the lives of clients and their communities. ■

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## COMMUNITY SERVICE

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**ANYONE WISHING TO CONTRIBUTE ARTICLES OR IDEAS FOR ARTICLES TO THE SANCTIONS UPDATE ARE INVITED TO CONTACT JIM GREENE AT THE COURT SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION AT 860-721-2175 EXT 3110.**

## ALTERNATIVE SANCTIONS PROGRAMS AND PROVIDERS IN CONNECTICUT

### ADULT PROGRAMS

#### Access and Visitation

AMPS, Inc.  
**Adult Behavioral Health Services**  
Barbara Grover  
Community Health Resources (aka: North Central Counseling Services, Inc.)  
Community Prevention and Addiction Services, Inc.  
Connecticut Renaissance, Inc.  
The Connection, Inc.  
Family Re-Entry, Inc.  
Hockanum Valley Community Council, Inc.  
Midwestern CT Council on Alcoholism (MCCA)  
Morris Foundation, Inc.  
Natchaug Hospital  
Network Connecticut, Inc.  
New Directions, Inc. of North Central Conn.  
Perception Programs, Inc.  
Regional Network of Programs  
Rushford Center, Inc.  
Southeastern Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence, Inc. (SCADD)  
Stonington Institute  
Wheeler Clinic, Inc.  
**Adult Mediation Services**  
Community Mediation, Inc.  
Community Partners in Action  
Dispute Settlement Center, Inc.  
**Adult Risk Reduction Center**  
Wheeler Clinic, Inc.  
**Adult Sex Offender Treatment Services**  
The Connection Inc.  
**Alternative Incarceration Center Services**  
Community Partners in Action  
Community Renewal Team

The Connection, Inc.  
Corporation for Justice Management, Inc.  
CSI Connecticut, Inc.  
CTE, Inc.  
Norwalk Economic Opportunity Now, Inc.  
Perception Programs, Inc.  
Project More  
Wheeler Clinic, Inc.  
**Bridgeport Domestic Violence Intervention Services**  
Family Re-Entry, Inc.  
**Building Bridges**  
Community Foundation of Greater New Haven  
City of Hartford  
**Community Court**  
Community Partners in Action  
CSI Connecticut, Inc.  
**Community Service Officers**  
Norwalk Economic Opportunity Now, Inc.  
United Community & Family Services  
United Way of Meriden & Wallingford, Inc.  
United Way of Greater New Haven  
Volunteer Center of Southwestern Fairfield County  
The Volunteer Center of Western Connecticut  
**Domestic Violence - Evolve (52 wk)**  
The Consultation Center, Inc. (aka: CCB)  
Families in Crisis, Inc.  
Family Re-Entry, Inc.  
**Domestic Violence - Explore (26 wk)**  
Association of Religious Communities, Inc.  
Families in Crisis, Inc.  
Family Re-Entry, Inc.

Mandel Mellow and Went (dba: N.A.)  
Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) of New London County, Inc.  
Wheeler Clinic, Inc.  
**Drug Intervention Program**  
Family Re-Entry, Inc.  
Hill Health Corporation  
Liberation Programs, Inc.  
Perception Programs, Inc.  
**Family Violence Education Program**  
Association of Religious Communities, Inc.  
Catholic Charities/Catholic Family Services  
Community Health Resources (aka: North Central Counseling Services, Inc.)  
The Consultation Center, Inc. (aka: CCB)  
Family Re-Entry, Inc.  
Mandel Mellow and Went (dba: N.A.)  
Marianne Christiano  
Maxine L. Varanko (dba: FMHS)  
United Services, Inc.  
Wheeler Clinic, Inc.  
**Gender Specific - Female**  
Career Resources, Inc.  
**Latino Youth Offender Services**  
Catholic Charities/Catholic Family Services  
**Residential Services - Halfway House**  
Corporation for Justice Management, Inc.  
**Residential Services - Jail Re-Interview**  
The Connection, Inc.  
**Residential Services - Medical Detoxification**  
Rushford Center, Inc.  
**Residential Services - Project Green**  
CSI Connecticut, Inc.  
Project More

**Residential Services - Substance Abuse Intermediate**  
APT Foundation, Inc.  
Morris Foundation, Inc. - Morris House  
Rushford Center, Inc.  
**Residential Services - Youthful Offender**  
CSI Connecticut, Inc.  
**Women and Children Services**  
Community Renewal Team, Inc.  
The Connection, Inc.  
CSI Connecticut, Inc.  
**Zero Tolerance Drug Supervision Program**  
Project More  
**JUVENILE PROGRAMS**  
**Adolescent Clinical Treatment**  
Catholic Charities/Catholic Family Services  
Connecticut Renaissance, Inc.  
Natchaug Hospital  
Wheeler Clinic, Inc.  
Yale University  
**Alternative to Juvenile Detention Program**  
Community Renewal Team  
Community Partners in Action  
Corporation for Justice Management, Inc.  
St. Francis Home for Children, Inc.  
**Center for Assessment Respite Enrichment**  
Connecticut Junior Republic  
St. Francis Home for Children, Inc.  
**Community Detention for Girls**  
Community Partners in Action  
**Court Based Juvenile Assessment Services**  
Campagna Associates, LLP  
Clinical Consultants of Connecticut

The Connection, Inc.  
Natchaug Hospital  
Wheeler Clinic, Inc.  
**Hartford Juvenile Review Board**  
Catholic Charities/Catholic Family Services  
**Juvenile Diversion Program Services**  
The Connection, Inc.  
Family & Children's Agency, Inc.  
**Juvenile Justice Centers**  
City of Meriden  
City of Stamford  
City of West Haven  
Community Renewal Team, Inc.  
CSI Connecticut, Inc.  
New Britain Youth Services  
Rushford Center, Inc.  
United Services, Inc.  
Waterbury Youth Services System, Inc.  
Windham Regional Community Council, Inc.  
**Juvenile Mediation Services**  
Community Mediation, Inc.  
**Juvenile Risk Reduction Center**  
Connecticut Renaissance, Inc.  
CSI Connecticut, Inc.  
Forensic Health Services, Inc.  
The Village for Families and Children, Inc.  
**Juvenile Sex Offender Services**  
The Connection, Inc.  
**Multi Systemic Therapy**  
Connecticut Renaissance, Inc.  
Connecticut Junior Republic  
CSI Connecticut, Inc.  
NAFI Connecticut, Inc.  
Wheeler Clinic, Inc.