


# Connecticut Association of Nonprofits

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## NEWS RELEASE

### *Political Leaders, Nonprofit Organizations and Citizens Convened To Celebrate The Face Of Nonprofits In Connecticut*

#### **An Opportunity to Honor Connecticut's Nonprofit Community**

**Hartford, CT** (February 24, 2003)- In early February, the Connecticut Association of Nonprofits (CAN), legislators, nonprofit organizations, and individuals served by nonprofits celebrated *Connecticut Nonprofits Week* proclaimed by Governor Rowland and launched CAN's educational awareness campaign called *The Face of Nonprofits*.

"It's a scary time for people in the nonprofit world," explained State Representative Jim O'Rourke of Cromwell to the group gathered for a press conference at the State Capitol. During uncertain economic times, the services and employment nonprofits provide become even more crucial to the people of Connecticut. With the state budget under scrutiny, cuts to nonprofits could be devastating not only to the people who work there, but to the people they serve. The CAN press conference united friends and supporters of nonprofits in recognition of all the positive work these organizations do and the many ways they touch the lives of people in the state.

State Senator David Cappiello, Danbury, voiced his appreciation and support for nonprofits at the press conference and stressed "the need to fund adequately". State Representative Jack Malone, Norwich, spoke of the disparity in pay and workers compensation benefits between nonprofits and their state-employed colleagues providing similar services. "That's the struggle nonprofits have," Malone pointed out, "trying to make sure their programs are fairly compensated by the state."

*The Face of Nonprofits* educational awareness campaign is a testament to the 11,000 Connecticut nonprofit organizations and the 150,000 people who serve the 3.3 million people of Connecticut. Through visual interpretation in the form of a poster, CAN presents the unique characters, personalities, and stories of people who make up our rich and diverse state. The spirit of nonprofits, the work they do and the lives they touch throughout the state, are captured in this compelling campaign.

"*The Face of Nonprofits* makes the work and mission of nonprofits real through the faces, features and hearts of those served and those who serve," said Ron Cretaro, CAN executive director.

CAN represents over 500 nonprofit organizations that employ more than 20,000 people in the State of Connecticut. The mission of the organization is to support and strengthen nonprofit organizations in building and sustaining healthy communities in the state.

(more)

## **FACE OF NONPROFITS/ CAN – add 1**

CAN's members represent the arts, community and economic development, education, animal welfare, the environment, religious, human services and philanthropy. The association assists members with advocacy and lobbying efforts, professional development and training, and also provides business services.

To view the individuals portrayed in *The Face of Nonprofits* or for more information about the Connecticut Association of Nonprofits, visit their Web site at [www.ctnonprofits.org](http://www.ctnonprofits.org) or contact CAN directly at 860-525-5080.

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## ***Connecticut Nonprofit Fact Reference Sheet***

**Statistics provided by the Connecticut Association of Nonprofits**

### **THE CT JUSTICE SYSTEM**

- It is expected that there will be 1,500 inmates supervised in the community by nonprofits
- There are over 750 Halfway House beds in Connecticut run by nonprofits

### **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

- Department of Children & Families funds hundreds of nonprofits that serve approximately 34,000 kids per year in programs such as: Residential Treatment, Safe Homes, Day and After School Programs, Juvenile Justice Programs and Foster Care.

### **MENTAL RETARDATION**

- 70-80%, approximately 13,000 of the 18,000 individuals served annually, are served by nonprofit organizations
- Included in that number is approximately 4,000 individuals in nonprofit residential settings
- Approximately 1,500 individuals remain on the waiting list for services

### **MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES**

- 26,904 individuals with mental health needs were served by nonprofits in fiscal year 2002
- 27,582 individuals with substance abuse needs were served by nonprofits in fiscal year 2002

## **COURT SUPPORT SERVICES**

- There were over 40,000 alternative to incarceration nonprofit provider slots utilized by adult offenders in fiscal year 2002. Examples of the types of programs include: Alternative Incarceration Centers, Community Court, Drug and Alcohol Education, Community Service, Specialized Programs for Women and Children, Mediation
- There were over 7,000 slots in nonprofits for juvenile offenders in fiscal year 2002. Juveniles served would otherwise be headed to detention programs at a much higher cost to taxpayers. Examples of the types of programs include: Drug Education, Juvenile Justice Centers, Juvenile Supervision and Reporting Centers, Alternative to Detention, Outpatient Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment

(more)

***(Connecticut Nonprofit Fact Reference Sheet – cont'd)***

**HOMELESSNESS**

- 13,600 individuals used homeless shelters in CT between 10/00 and 9/01 (20% of these people were employed)
- This total represents 1,520 families with 2,913 children
- 88% of the families had a single female parent
- 9% were two-parent families
- 3% were single male families
- 35% of the total were Caucasian
- 24% were Hispanic

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

- Between 7/01 and 6/02 the 18 shelters that are part of the CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence provided services to 37,132 victims of domestic violence
- 33,735 contacts with victims in crisis were handled by the staff and volunteers at the hotline
- 1,020 women and 1,174 kids stayed in emergency shelters because of no other safe options
- 12,352 adult victims and 764 child victims who did not need emergency shelter received support services from staff and volunteers
- 21,822 court referred victims received direct services from staff and volunteers based in criminal courts
- 94,389 people attended community education programs (police, religious, civic, colleges, etc.)

**- Statistics provided by Connecticut Association of Nonprofits**