



Community Connections *IN REAL TIME*

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Connecticut Assets Network

530 Silas Deane Highway
Suite 220
Wethersfield, CT 06109
Phone: 860.571.8463
Fax: 571.8465
www.ctassets.org

Gregory Ryan
Executive Director
gryan@ctassets.org

John Walker
Director Community Services
207.799.2580
jwalker3@maine.rr.com

Cate Bourke
Community Specialist
cbourke@ctassets.org

Connecticut Assets Network creates and supports asset and resiliency building technologies, tools and systems to mobilize communities around their strengths.



The common purpose of CAN's technologies, tools and systems is Village Building, a process of creating and/or enhancing connections between and among community members for the mutual benefit of all.



Technology Boosts Youth and Community Development

On November 15th, 2007, the Connecticut Assets Network (CAN) will formally introduce CCAMP's Community Mobilization Software Version 4.1, the online technology component of its Community Connections Asset Mapping Process. The CCAMP System is a tool for mobilizing communities to reduce isolation and increase connections between and among people for mutual benefit.

The technological leap in Version 4.1 includes user friendly, online data entry, and nearly instantaneous geomapping capabilities. More than 20 pilot communities in Connecticut and nationwide are using Version 4.1 to impact a wide range of systems, including disabilities, family advocacy, behavioral health, mental health, public health, prevention, recovery, schools, youth and families, etc.

CCAMP software is, in essence, *self-improving technology*. As CAN seeks—and CCAMP users provide—feedback about its use, the CCAMP System is updated regularly. Due to its location on the internet, updates occur without interruption to the user. Regular updates ensure that the CCAMP System remains relevant to cutting edge practices in the field of positive youth and community development.

Community Connection initiatives often begin by tapping into the collaborative nature of local organizations and are facilitated by CCAMP's online data entry. Participation by organizations (business, education, community agencies, faith communities, civic and other volunteer associations, etc.) allow comprehensive information about programs and services as well as material, human and social resources to be shared. Internet access for inputting, updating, and retrieving public information increases the likelihood that organization's info will remain comprehensive, accurate, and up to date. CCAMP is much more than your standard resource guide!

Most organizations—since they want the general public to utilize their services—choose to utilize the CCAMP public site as a marketing tool, and they elect to make their information public. All community members, including individuals and families, can access CCAMP's public website. Citizens can use the available technology on the public site—including GIS, or geomapping, technology—
(see Pg. 2)

Decreasing the Dropout Rate at Hillhouse High

The School for Ethical Education (SEE) is working with the New Haven Public Schools, to decrease the dropout rate in the local high school population. SEE is gearing up to teach a for-credit course at Hillhouse High to train sophomores, juniors and seniors to, 1) asset map both the educational and career resources that exist throughout the city of New Haven, and 2) asset map all 9th grade and/or new students as part of their Hillhouse orientation process.

Data entered into their CCAMP resource bank data-base will be organized and managed to make it possible for students, on their own or with school career counselors or parents, to identify and connect with career and educational supports based upon their actual hopes and dreams. Resources may include identification of pertinent in-school courses, clubs or activities, as well as external scholarship, internship, mentorship, job shadowing and summer and after school employment opportunities, etc., related to each student's unique field of interest.

In three years, every youth in the high school will have been asset mapped, creating circles of educational and career supports around each student, increasing student satisfaction and decreasing dropout rates at Hillhouse High. ■

Save the Dates!

November 7-10, 2007

The Search Institute's 2007 Healthy Communities • Healthy Youth Conference, entitled *Transforming Relationships: For the Common Good* will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel and Riverside Convention Center in Rochester, New York. Register online at <http://www.search-institute.org/hchy> ■

November 7, 2007

In cooperation with the Search Institute, and in conjunction with their 2007 Healthy Communities • Healthy Youth Conference, the Connecticut Assets Network will sponsor an interactive, pre-conference program entitled *A Technology Boost to Asset Building for Youth Development*. Rochester Community Asset Mapping Project leaders were first in line in 2007 among five CAN/Search Institute Pilot groups to test CCAMP's new Asset Mobilization Software in a neighborhood they hope to make safer and more supportive of youth. Their work will be highlighted. ■

December 6-7, 2007

The Northeast Assets Leadership Project (NEALP) 5th Annual Conference entitled *Community Assets In Real Time* will be held at the Hoagland-Pincus Conference Center in Shrewsbury, MA (Dec. 6) and the Crowne Plaza Downtown Hotel in Worcester, MA (Dec. 7). Workshops, case studies, plenary sessions and networking on mobilization of community assets will be the focus of Day One. Tom Dewar from the Northwestern University Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Institute will keynote. Day Two's optional intensive workshops will focus on leadership challenges and youth development, and for CCAMP users, the CCAMP System. For more information contact John Walker 207.799.2580 jwalker3@maine.rr.com ■



Youth from the Rochester Community Asset Mapping Project (RCAMP) prepare to conduct their mapping campaign in the summer of 2007.

Technology Boosts Youth & Community Development

(Continued from pg. 1) to plan their service-use or their volunteer contributions accordingly. For organizations, CCAMP's geomapping of local resources means no more waiting in the local university's geomapping queue. It also provides a previously inaccessible resource for the community at large!

While beginning a CCAMP initiative with organizational/public input can quickly get an initiative off the ground, the CCAMP System excels at creating *developmental, educational and social supports* for individuals and families. CCAMP organizes and manages data collected by surveying individuals. Individual information *always* remains confidential, and organizations may choose to keep their information confidential as well. A women's shelter is a good example of an organization that might want its info to remain private. In the private section of the CCAMP database—accessible only to licensed CCAMP users and their teams—the full range of matching and mapping geomapping capabilities of CCAMP can powerfully illustrate the people, places, things and opportunities that already exist in communities to create mutually beneficial connections for individual and community development

CCAMP was developed with the firm belief that 1) every community member, even the most isolated, has assets, talents and skills and 2) ample opportunities for all citizens to contribute their assets, talents and skills are characteristic of strong communities. Respecting privacy and confidentiality, the asset mapping of individuals does not take place online. Instead it utilizes a more personal form of asset mapping and operates within already established social networks. Community connectors, people who enjoy people, are trained as asset mappers; these trained connectors have conversations with other individuals about their hopes and dreams, assets, interests, talents and needs. When this information is loaded into the private CCAMP data base, needs are matched with resources, interests with skills and talents, to increase the likelihood that every participant is better connected in the community.

Combining the personalized asset mapping of individuals and the online asset mapping of organizations, New Haven's Hillhouse High story provides one example of the impact of combining the asset mapping of individuals and organizations in a school/community based effort to increase community connections (*see Pg. 1*).

To learn more about the CCAMP System and CCAMP Community Mobilization Software Version 4.1 and how it can help your initiative, contact Gregory Ryan (gryan@ctassets.org) or Cate Bourke (cbourke@ctassets.org) or call 860.571.8463. ■



CT Assets Network & Search Institute Announce The HC•HY CCAMP Pilot



In the spring of 2007, the Connecticut Assets Network (CAN) and Search Institute convened a pilot group of youth asset-building initiatives positioned to use the Community Connections Asset Mapping Process (CCAMP) for positive youth and community development. Currently, five initiatives located in NY, CT and TX are participating in the HC•HY Pilot.

The Community Connection Asset Mapping Process (CCAMP) is a multi-faceted, internet-based community-building tool. Developed by the Connecticut Assets Network, it is a source of strategies and technologies to create asset-rich environments for all constituencies. CCAMP features high-impact, data-driven reports for enhanced strategic planning.

How can it help your community?

- Modified survey templates reflect your community's culture. Conducting surveys—online or face to face—provides a comprehensive picture of needs, resources, experiences and opportunities within your unique schools, neighborhoods, and community.
- Survey information is entered into CCAMP database, an interactive, web-based technology that facilitates matching people to other people, programs and resources to support all citizens, helping you create and sustain communities that thrive!
- The CCAMP database facilitates building hundreds of customized reports using advanced technologies, including geo-mapping (GIS), to support and strengthen evaluation, grant writing, and strategic and outcome-based planning.

If you can Google, then you can CCAMP!

To learn more, visit the CCAMP Booth at the HC•HY Conference, or contact John Walker at jwalker3@maine.rr.com or 207-799-2580. ■



Rochester youth, as part of the HC•HY Pilot, mount their Rochester Community Asset Mapping Project (RCAMP) campaign. The project is part of an effort to make the Census Tract 57 neighborhood safer and more supportive for youth and for all citizens.

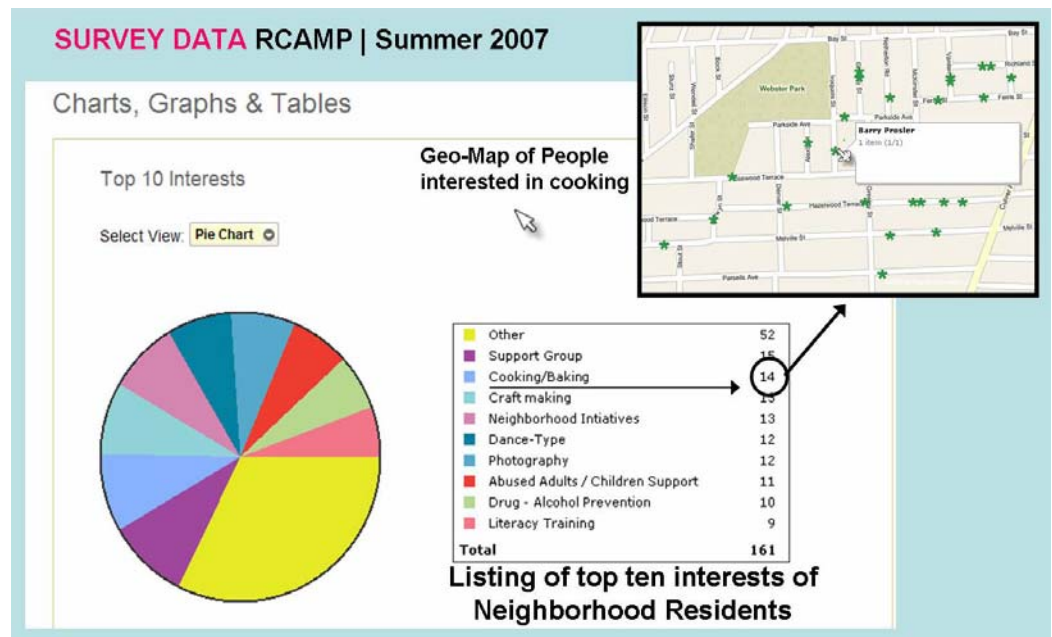
RCAMP Really Cooks!

Working with the Rochester Community Asset Mapping Project (RCAMP) during the summer of 2007, teams of youth asset mapped the Beechwood Neighborhood of Rochester.

The illustration at the right is used by RCAMP to depict (for funders, planning teams, citizen groups, etc.) the top ten interests of 161 residents in the Census Tract 57 Neighborhood. Three types of graphic elements are illustrated: the pie chart, the table, and the geomap.

RCAMP Coordinator Jemeul

Johnson Geo-mapped the location of residents who said they were interested in cooking and/or baking. CCAMP's geomapping and other features provide tools for strategic planning when communities consider, for example, where to offer programs and other supports that citizens really want! ■



Connecticut's SPF SIG Communities Use CCAMP to Address Underage Drinking

In September, 2004, Connecticut's Department of Mental Health and Addictions Services (DMHAS) was designated by the Governor's Office to lead the Connecticut Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF-SIG). Funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), Connecticut's SPF-SIG is focused on using environmental strategies to address underage drinking in communities statewide.

Adopting SAMHSA's belief that "the success of state and community ATOD prevention efforts lies, in part, in the effective use of data to identify needs and to plan for and monitor the effectiveness of prevention strategies," DMHAS is linking SPF-SIG activities with the utilization of the CCAMP System in 5 of 29 grantee communities, and intends to make the CCAMP System available to all SPF-SIG grantees over the course of the 3 year funding stream. For more information on Connecticut's SPF-SIG, see <http://www.dmhas.state.ct.us/prevention/CTSPP/SPFphase2.pdf>



From left, Andrew Woods, Hartford Behavioral Health (HBH), Ryan Obedzinski, The Governor's Prevention Partnership, Declon Joseph, Community Renewal Team (CRT) and Greg Ryan, Connecticut Assets Network meet to discuss Teens in Hartford Promoting Sober Youth (TIHPSY). HBH and CRT both received a Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF-SIG) and are collaborating to map the assets of youth and adults in the Blue Hills Neighborhood of Hartford, CT. ■

Learn More About CCAMP!

Attend a 90 Minute web-based demonstration of the CCAMP Community Mobilization Software, Version 4.1 from the comfort of your own office to learn how CCAMP can help you organize your ability to care! The following web demonstration dates are currently available:

November 19, 2007
November 27, 2007
December 4, 2007
December 13, 2007

All Web Demonstrations take place from 2-3:30 p.m. (EST).

Early registration is recommended as space is limited. Contact us at: 860.571.8463 • gryan@ctassets.org.

www.thecommunityconnection.org



Begin with the End in Mind

If you're interested in creating greater social connectedness in your community, consider, right from the start, tracking your personal story and its impacts. Track the journeys of others as participation in your social connectedness initiative grows. Answering the following questions now can serve you later when evaluating your initiative.

Stage One: Contemplation and Preparation

1. How did you initially become aware of the activities of the group/initiative that you ultimately joined?
2. What intrigued you about the group/initiative and the possibility of becoming a member?
3. What obstacles to joining the group/initiative existed? How did you surmount them?
4. When and under what circumstances did you declare yourself ready to join the group/initiative?

Stage Two: Actions and Successes

5. When did you actually join the group/initiative? What were your first successes?
6. What additional successes do you remember as you spent more time with the group/initiative?
7. What stalled or blocked your progress or the progress of the group/initiative? How did you resolve the obstacle(s)?
8. When and how did you commit yourself fully to contributing to the group/initiative?
9. When and how did you find yourself in a position to help others? Describe this situation/position.
10. When did you begin to advocate on behalf of the group/initiative (e.g., recruiting, public speaking, etc.)? What actions marked your advocacy effort?
11. When and how did your lifestyle change as a result of your participation in the group/initiative?
12. When did you begin to feel that the group was experiencing sustained success in achieving its mission? What happened to distinguish this period of success from the earlier weeks, months, or years of work?

Stage Three: The Legacy

13. At what point did you try to help others on journeys that resembled yours? How did you reach out and what happened when you did?
14. When and how did you begin to share with others the story of your work and contributions? ■