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ISSUE 119 JULY 2003

Special Edition got stuff?

By Donna Micklus

HARTFORD, Conn.
(July 17, 2003)

"The 'Got Stuff' program is exactly the type of simple, common sense program we need to make our government more efficient," said Governor John Rowland as he addressed an overflow crowd in the North Mechanical Room filled with stuff.

The news conference was the much heralded event that capped a two-month campaign of an asset management effort dubbed "Got Stuff?"

"This was an employee-generated initiative that grew out of agencywide discussions on our business plan for the year which focused on new ways to save money," said Commissioner Barbara Waters.

"Early retirements and streamlining have freed up massive amounts of equipment in all state agencies, and government must evolve with those changes," Waters added.

"Rather than allowing those valuable assets to sit around collecting dust, the "Got Stuff?" campaign will result in a statewide tag sale which will benefit those who most need equipment," she explained.

The Governor and Commissioner also highlighted the cooperation between DAS and the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). Due to the "Got Stuff?" collection at DAS, 22 computers will be transferred to DCP and used for employee training and upgrading of agency's customer service center.



Governor John G. Rowland and DAS Commissioner Barbara Waters address the media at the July 17 "Got Stuff?" news conference at DAS.

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"This campaign has saved our agency \$48,000," DCP Commissioner James Fleming said.

"Instead of having to buy new equipment, we will get newer technology to better serve our customers while saving critical General Fund dollars."

Governor Rowland used the occasion to announce that he has directed the "Got Stuff?" program to be implemented at all major state agencies.

A DAS team of Jim Passier, Linda Hubeny, Martin Anderson, Donna Micklus, Kenn Stephenson, John McKay, Adam Liegeot, Nina Ritson, Bill Skyrme, Sue Miller, Joyce Chin, Fred Ondevilla, Dale Greenwood, Mark Tandler, Brian Halloran, Angelika Scheffera, Kevin Bachman, Joe Giliberto, Steve Soklow, Paul Greco, Lyn Peccerillo, Jim Potyra, Matt Shea, and Peter Varhol will be working to help agencies implement their own "Got Stuff?" campaign.

"If an agency like DAS with less than 300 employees could generate \$216,000 worth of surplus equipment, imagine how much can be saved when we go statewide," Waters said.

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What folks are saying about “stuff?”

“I am extremely proud of the creativity and initiative of DAS’ employees in getting this program off the ground.”
Governor John G. Rowland

I was very impressed with the newspaper and television coverage connected with our DAS “Got Stuff?” module. I hope others follow our example.
Ed Burke, FSC

Talk about creating moments of magic! “Got Stuff?” exceeded all expectations and went straight for the “Wow”.
Vin Lombardo, FSC



Governor Rowland announces the “Got Stuff?” Program as Ma Bell, Al, Barbara, and Martin look down from their posters.



The Capitol Press Corps was there in force, taking every opportunity to question the Governor about the budget. “Stuff” got great coverage, as well. The New York Times even made reference to Martin Anderson’s couch!



Got Stuff? It’s the way to Feng Shui!
Diane Donato, BAGS

What a huge compliment and acknowledgement from Governor Rowland to personally attend, as well as to confirm the creative accomplishments of DAS as an example for other state agencies to emulate.

Tina Costanzo, Procurement

It felt good to see DAS and Consumer Protection working together on a cost-saving plan. And the fact that the Governor thought it worthy enough to hold his press conference here at DAS says volumes about how much he respects Commissioner Waters’ ideas and leadership.

Devin Marquez, BAGS

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John G. Rowland
 Governor

Barbara A. Waters
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Visit our website at
www.das.state.ct.us

Here at FSC-Collections, generating \$ for the state is what we're all about. This is another way for us to do our part for the budget. We will turn over stones or telephones for revenue!

Henry Jovanelly, FSC

While I have never been personally mentioned in the New York Times, my former office couch was. It just shows how STUFF can bring one closer to greatness.

Martin Anderson, SLC/HR



Commissioner Waters gives an interview to WTIC.



You almost have to be a "Hubenator" to round up so much stuff!

I think it was very positive that the Governor would take the time to come and personally show his support for the DAS "Got Stuff" project. It is a visible demonstration that what we do really can make a difference. Sometimes it feels like the Capitol and the State Office Building are miles apart, but visits like this one from Governor Rowland and the earlier visit from Lieutenant Governor Rell (where she toured our workplace) make you realize how close we really are, both geographically and in our mission of working together for the betterment of the State of Connecticut.

Susan Pawloski-Burke, SLC/HR

I was pleased to contribute to such a great initiative! **Linda Hubeny, MIS**

The Governor shares a laugh with Alan Mazzola and Donna Micklus.



I thought that this event was positive for DAS and State employees, we always hear the negative on how much taxpayers give to state employees and never hear about the positive works that come from these employees. I was happy to witness the Governor say something positive about State employees in public.

Lynn Peccerillo, Procurement

I felt very proud to be a part of this agency, and I look forward to being able to visit other agencies and helping coordinate their "Stuff" recruitment. I think DAS has a valuable perspective on doing business that other agencies can really benefit from.

Aimee Gagnon, BAGS

Great job! I'm honored to be part of this agency!
Angelika Scheffera, MIS

Great initiative! Good opportunity to showcase the DAS leadership in money-saving ideas and employee involvement. And, the Governor's appearance made it extra special!
Jim McKenna, FSC



The North Mechanical Room was filled to the rafters with stuff. It sure does a budget good.

As a member of the 'Got Stuff' Team, I realized a sincere appreciation for the efforts of DAS to truly save the State money. All employees made an effort to contribute to the success of the Got Stuff goal.

Joe Giliberto, Procurement

Great idea, hope it helps.

Julie Ahlstrin, FSC

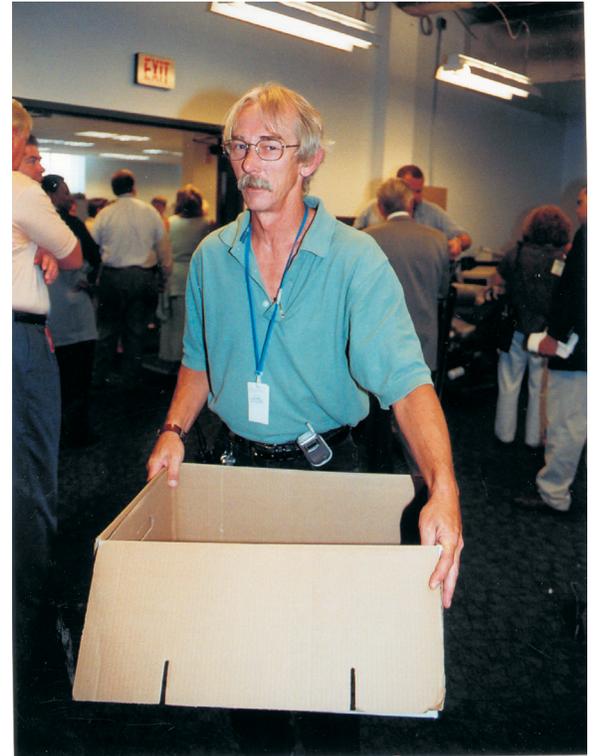
It was very satisfying to see Governor Rowland interact and recognize DAS initiatives and successful results for the 'Got Stuff' team. It made me feel proud to be part of DAS.

Don Casella, Procurement

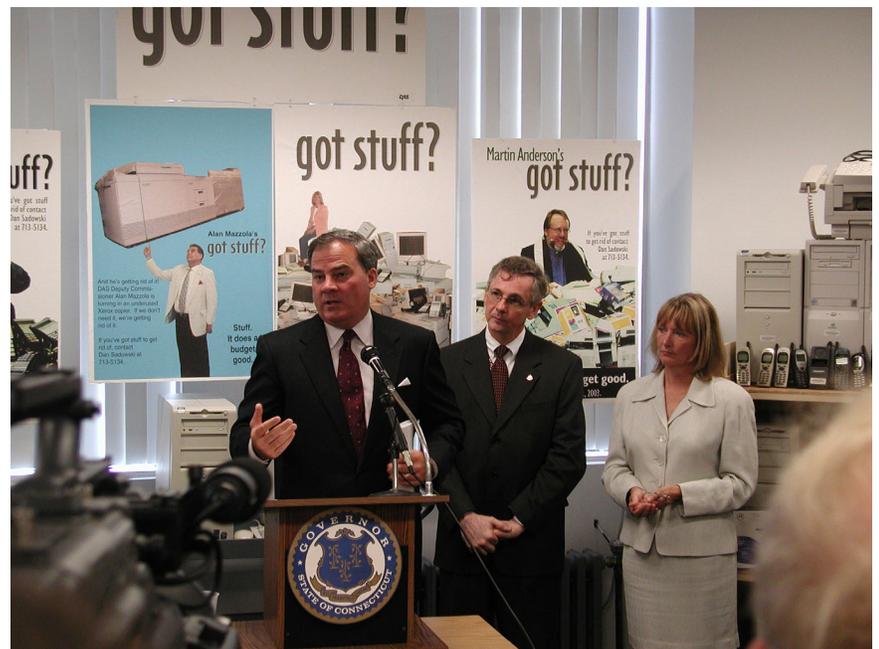
Glad to see good equipment is being used by other departments instead of sitting around.

Christopher Fons, FSC

Glad to see we're helping the budget.
Rose Flynn, FSC



At this point, Dan Sadowski is probably ready to stuff "Stuff."



Consumer Protection Commissioner James Fleming, center, joins the Governor and Commissioner Waters as he accepts the 22 surplus computers donated by DAS.



Deputy Commissioner Alan Mazzola was at "Got Stuff?" but opted not to balance his copier machine for the occasion.

Barbara has always had a good vision updating DAS with the automation we need ...like our video-conferencing equipment. I was appalled to hear the Dept. of Consumer Protection (a multimillion dollar collection dept.) didn't have better equipment. Giving other agencies access to things not being used is just good business. I was also pleased to hear the cell phones were going to such a worthy cause.

Abbie Wotkyns, FSC



Commissioner Waters picks the lucky winners in a raffle held to say thanks to employees. Robert Chausse, Carol Biernacki, Marjorie Leonard, and Fred Ondevilla all won gift certificates to either Hot Tomatoe's or Vito's

Excellent starting point for saving money.
Sonji Fonseca, FSC

One man's trash is another man's treasure!
Jennifer Reid, FSC

“Great idea! **Lee Ann Rosborg, FSC**

It is satisfying to see the positive impact DAS has on Connecticut. **Mike Felix, FSC**



Commissioner Waters with Donna Saliter of Interval House. DAS donated a number of cell phones to the battered womens' shelter.

Fantastic!
William Hickey, FSC

The "Got Stuff" campaign is something of which DAS should be very proud! Not only are we shifting "unused stuff" to places where it will be appreciated, we're also saving the state money in waste hauling, tipping, and disposal fees. In the meantime, we're improving the quality of life in Connecticut by keeping this "stuff" out of our landfills and incinerators! Everybody wins!

Barbara Moser, Procurement

Good idea to not have extra stuff laying around.
Cheryl Drolet, FSC

I was impressed with Commissioner Waters' spontaneous responses to the reporters' questions.
Rick Miarecki, MIS

I'm glad to see the cell phones were donated to the battered women.
Rachelle Harris, FSC

Report out time on the *big8*

How are we doin' ?

July 10, 2003

Cheryl Sawina opened the report out, announcing that project tracking is again residing on DAS Central.

"We will also be using the data to track savings on all the projects," she said. Sawina added that a strategic planning guide will also go on-line so that tools, timeline, planning and tracking processes will all be in a central location.

Briefly, here's where the projects stand:

DAS' Support of Core-CT – Vin Lombardo

DAS was tasked with identifying resources and roles ready to support the conversion. The financials went live on July 8, and while there were some minor problems, DAS is "green" on all its Core-related projects.

State Employee Housing Review – Vin Lombardo

Some agencies provide housing to state employees who have to live at their work site. FSC will be looking at the rates to determine fair market and hope to increase revenues. Project is "green".

Develop New Collections Strategies to Bring in More \$\$\$ - Vin Lombardo

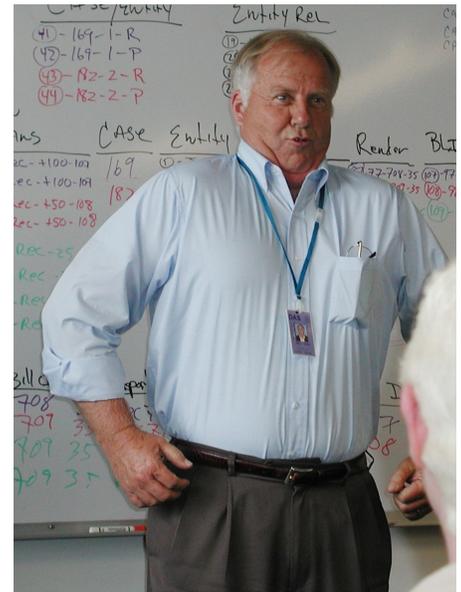
Employees are working on two major new areas: reimbursing the state for incarceration and looking at police reports on accidents before they reach the courts. Both are extremely labor intensive, but no doubt profitable.

Reduce the Size and Cost of Fleet – Steve Dygus

DAS assembled a repo team, reviewed over 8,000 mileage reports to determine vehicle use, and made recommendations to agencies. To date 16% of the state's fleet, more than 650 vehicles, have been turned in. They will not be looking at other costs areas. DAS is issuing an RFP to outsource the daily motor pool. DAS is looking to save \$20 million over the next five years.

Human Resources – Pam Libby

- Establish a partnership with OPM to review ERIP plans that agencies are submitting.
- Reemployment and SEBAC – staff is reviewing all files, determining rights and getting people back to work. To date, some 400 have returned to work. There is now a dedicated site on the DAS website for faster and better service.



Bill Skyrme gets pumped up for his presentation on the DAS website.

- Reducing the number of job classes
- Addressing occupational shortages. Continuing to work on the nursing shortage and will roll out the virtual nursing career site to other occupational shortage areas such as law enforcement.
- Reviewing the HR Internet site to become more user-friendly, up-to-date, and tailored for the HR professionals.
- SCOPE studies continue.

- Developing strategic management tools to help agencies with strategic planning

- Putting together an “HR Summit” on hot topics, i.e. ERIP, successional planning, etc.

- Developing an HR procedures manual.

- Working on replacing standard exams.

Reduce Workers’ Compensation Costs – Anil Antani

- Held two informational sessions with all state agencies.

- Rewriting manual to reflect legislative changes

- Planning a major Fraud Control public relations campaign – dedicated toll free hotline, public service announcements, bumper stickers, possible reward incentives. Also will be holding classes on different types of fraud prevention.

- New emphasis on Loss Control to prevent injuries before they



Steve Dygus casts a glance at Al “Repo Man” Mazzola during his report out on Fleet savings.

occur. Hope to hire four certified loss control employees.

Reduce the State’s Printing Expenses – Steve Soklow

Currently there are 14 separate print centers operating independently. A team of DAS employees visited each site and interviewed employees. Results show that there is much underutilized and redundant equipment and no leveraged buying. Team is now categorizing data, preparing for second review site visits as well as meeting with private vendors in the print industry, e.g., Pitney Bowes, Travelers, Aetna, Vanguard.

Asset Management – Jim Passier

“Got Stuff?” at DAS has been extremely successful and will be rolled out statewide (“Got Stuff Gone Wild”). A communications plan is in place for the roll-out and teams will be meeting with agency representatives, and disseminate tool kits on how to run “Got Stuff?”. Project is green.

Purchasing to Save \$\$\$ -

Jim Passier

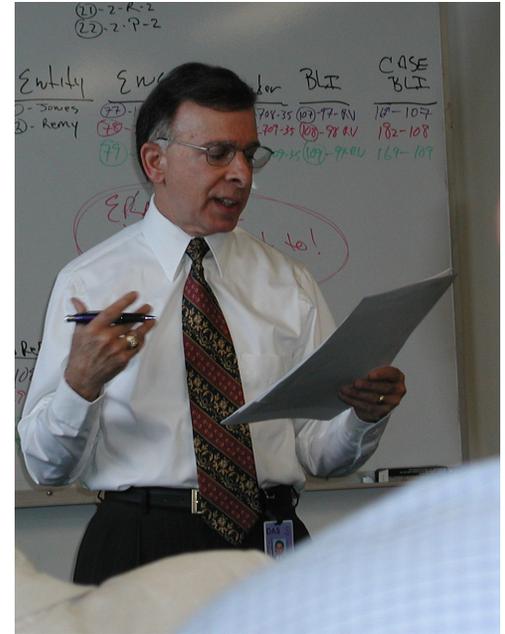
- DAS is working with vendors in an effort to bring costs down.

- Completed an RFP on Spend Management – three vendors are on the short list. Will be using data from the Comptroller’s Office to see who is and who isn’t buying off state contracts and to find out why. Ready to go in September.

- Procurement is also tracking savings in contracts which today stands at \$2.8 million.

The DAS Website, integral to the success of the Big 8 – Bill Skyrme

Definitely a work in progress as the site is continually updated and revamped to better address employee and customer needs, i.e., SEBAC dedicated site, new surplus capabilities to accommodate statewide “Got Stuff”, CT \$HOPS, and will be used as a promotional tool for such pro-



Vin Lombardo is optimistic about new sources of Collections revenue.

grams such as the Workers’ Comp Fraud campaign.

“We have the best website and the best MIS and Communications staff in the state,” said Commissioner Barbara Waters at the completion of the Big 8 Report Out.

“We went from an agency of over 1200 to under 300. We’re producing more with less, but we never could have done that without technology.”

Waters said that Governor Rowland is meeting weekly with commissioners tasking them to find ways to save money.

“He starts each weekly meeting with what DAS has been doing...we really have become the model,” Waters said.

D **I** **V** **E** **R** **S** **I** **T** **Y**

...our strength is in our differences

Happenings

Diversity Billboard

By Maureen Friedman

“Diversity ...our strength is in our differences”. When you think about it, it really is true.

For instance, wouldn't it be boring if we all looked alike? How about if everyone observed the same cultural traditions?

Imagine that there is no such thing as Chinese, Italian, Mexican or any other variety of cooking. Don't you think your taste buds would get tired of eating the same monotonous food? For most of us, the answer to these questions is a resounding... Yes! Differences make our lives interesting and fun.

Help us celebrate the diversity of our DAS community by contributing something for our new Diversity Billboard, located on the ground floor across from Room G-1. Photographs, recipes and announcements of diversity events are just a few examples of ways we can honor our diversity.

How can you get involved? Simple, just contact Cheryl Drolet, the Diversity Council Billboard coordinator at cheryl.drolet@po.state.ct.us or 713-5428 to offer submittals for the Diversity Billboard.

Help us illustrate why DAS is such a strong, successful agency. Together we can show how our strength truly is in our differences!

DAS Summer Picnic

**Wednesday, August, 20
Wickham Park in Manchester from 12-5.**

Menu by Melody: Teriyaki chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, beans, potato salad, cole slaw, corn on the cob, cookies, watermelon, iced tea, lemonade, and water. The event is BYOB.

Parking is \$2 and ticket price is \$18 per person. The committee also has planned a number of games and activities, so come to compete and have fun!

Tickets are available from any of the following committee members:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Nancy Jones - 5044 | Marisol Rivera - 5351 |
| Linda Shackett-Blue - 5185 | Franky Rivera - 5421 |
| Diane Mazar-Roberts - 5188 | Carlos Kebe - 5429 |
| Donna Wadhams - 5454 | Laura McNelly - 5258 |



**Great food
Great fun!**

Also, kids five and under are **free** and other children are \$10 each. **Deadline to buy tickets is Monday, August 18.**