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ISSUE 122 NOVEMBER 2003

CT \$hops Special Edition

By John McKay and Nina Ritson

2nd annual event draws thousands to CT Expo Center

It was a bargain hunter's paradise. Nope, not the sales at Filene's. It was CT \$hops! Held November 13 at the Connecticut Expo Center, it is hailed as one of DAS' biggest and most successful events of the year.

DAS' Procurement office works all year to entice vendors to attend and customers to come see the savings that are only a sign-up away.

"Many state contracted businesses are unaware of the savings we can offer them,"

procurement office makes it a party. With prize drawings, informational meetings, special guest Lt. Governor Jodi Rell speaking, and a Fidelco representative, it's more than another trade show; it's an all-day experience.

Customers milled around with their colorful duffle bags and nosed around from booth to booth to find new products that they didn't even know they could afford.

The event started off with 240 vendors setting up their display booths for the 1,760 attendees that came through the expo center doors.

"Our turnout was just as good as last

year," said coordinator Maureen Friedman. "I think that says a lot about the success we had last year and the fact that many vendors returned for another great year."

DAS Commissioner Barbara Waters agrees, "This is really growing into a requested event," she said. "A lot of good information and contacts are

gained by both sides, plus towns and municipalities are really getting on board with the whole idea of combined buying power to stretch their budgets and get more for their money."



Lt. Governor Jodi Rell and DAS Commissioner Barbara Waters join Procurement Staff at the ribbon cutting ceremony of the 2nd Annual CT \$hops

said DAS' Jim Passier. "Some don't realize the vastness of our resources. We offer so much more than they realize and this is a great opportunity to show them."

CT \$hops not only showcases many products the state has to offer, but DAS'

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And special guest Lt. Governor Jodi Rell commented on the improved enrollment, "People kept saying last year what a great idea this was. It's just something that makes sense. And it's not surprising that this year's CT \$hops is bigger and better than last year...by a lot. The number of not-for-profit organizations registered has almost doubled in one year from 52 to 101."

Plus, the number of school systems registered has increased by 65 percent, rising from 48 school systems last year to 79 this year.

And the sky's the limit. Especially when you consider the fact that



Jim Passier introduces Lt. Governor Jodi Rell

towns, schools and not-for-profits can save as much as 50 percent on their purchases when they leverage the state's buying power."

Carol Wilson and Tina Costanzo are ready for customers



Read more about what folks are saying about CT \$hops on Page 5

From the Lecce Family...

To All State Employees, Governor Rowland and Commissioner Barbara Waters,

The Family of Jeff Lecce would like to thank each and every one of you for your thoughtfulness, generosity and prayers in Jeff's time of need.

At the November '02 Benefit, DAS employee contributions were a major part of a very successful benefit for Jeff and his family. At that time Jeff was able to attend and received a Proclamation of Nov. 8th 2002 being Jeff Lecce Day from Governor Rowland, a letter of recognition, and a collage about the Employee Recognition Program Jeff had worked on from Commissioner Waters. Jeff felt very honored.

Most recently friends at DAS organized a raffle to benefit the Lecce Children Education Fund, which we are most grateful for. Jeff was very enthusiastic and proactive in his children's education.

We the Lecce Family are so very thankful for all of your support and all that you have done. Your caring and concern has been an inspiration in this difficult and untimely tragedy. Thank you all again so much for everything, you are all special people to our family.

May God Bless All of you.

Lynne Lecce Felix

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The **SEBAC Unit** received a very grateful letter from Mike Beringer who wrote, “Many thanks to **Susan Pawloski, Jeannette Rheame, Mary Jane O’Brien, Keith Anderson, Jay Tulin** and **Pam Libby** for all your assistance over this difficult time. I’ll be starting a new job soon with much credit due to your professional help. Again many thanks.”

Lee Cusano received a very pleasant call from Bill Mangini of DSS’ Print Center regarding the great courier service that they have been receiving from **Willie Durant** saying, “Willie not only is very dependable, but is always professional and very pleasant in the service he provides. Customers usually only call when there are issues, but I felt that Willie’s outstanding performance should be recognized. Thanks Willie!”

Senior Property Manager Karen Tietjen from the Tunxis Management Company thanked **Paul Greco**. “He has made my job more pleasurable. He is doing the cleaning bid for the building — and he’s made this a painless project on my part. Because of Paul’s great help and sense of humor, I look forward to working with DAS on other projects in the future. Thanks so much!”

Meg Yetishefsky would like to thank **Deb Hearl** for her assistance with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) recruitment project. “Deb was temporarily assigned to DCF for a few weeks to assist in the recruitment process. Her cooperation and team effort on this project is appreciated.”

Nancy Jones thanks every **DAS employee** who “either donated baked goods to the bake sale, bought items there, or bought books and gifts at the book sale. Both events were successful because of

people like you! Thank you for your participation.”

Systems Developer Janet Knopf applauded **Mary Yabrosky** for “going way beyond her duties definition by joining the Core-CT group. She has successfully accomplished a wide range of tasks from training employees on the new Core-CT EPM System to writing technical documentation. She accepts and conquers any project that’s placed in front of her which results in her being a tremendous asset to the Core-CT EPM Team. Great job Mary!”

Rob Zalucki sends a “special **THANK YOU** to **Jose Baez, Brenda Rivera, Bill Skyrme, Dan Sadowski, Fred Ondevilla** and **Peter Varhol** for all of their help with CT \$HOPS. Your contributions were instrumental to yet another successful CT \$HOPS. All of our numerous last minute requests were answered quickly and with a friendly smile. You are the epitome of true professionals. Thanks again!”

Bruce Gardner from the Department of Correction Enterprises wrote to **Carol Wilson** applauding the **Procurement Staff** stating “between your promotion of our services in your WIN newsletter and the contacts we made at the CT \$HOPS show last week, we are on the way to expanding the inmate workforce...lots of new work opportunities. Thank you to you and your DAS Team.”

Acting Director James Schaedler, Jr. from the Department of Transportation (DOT) thanked **Anna Tara** and **Brenda Rivera** for spending a week at DOT, assisting them in configuring and testing their connections to Core-CT. “Due to the high numbers of DP layoffs and early retirements DOT sustained, we were unable to complete PC preparations for Core-CT. Just a short note to say thanks for

sending Anna and Brenda over last week to help us out, especially on such short notice. We really appreciated it.”

Rosemary Woods from the Department of Public Works praised the **Diversity Council** for “making my day. I came in this morning, sort of down, (gee whiz another day at the old ranch attitude) and lo and behold I looked up and there were these

hats off

By **Cindy Rusczyk**

wonderful smiling faces, on the bright, Diversity Bulletin Board. The quote from President Kennedy really made it even more meaningful. It brought great thoughts to my mind, along with a few tears, (gee I am just an old fashioned girl, and not to proud to say when I am moved). Anyway, it is great. It made me think gee maybe this Diversity feeling that I have deep in my soul, will and is working...anyway it is so refreshing to see that at least someone is giving it a try. Again, a wonderful job.”

Isabelle McKinney sends out a special thank you to the **Diversity Council** for “putting so much effort into all that we do. What a great team!! A special thanks goes out to **Cheryl Drolet** for the hard work and time that you devoted to this project!! Also, I must send a special thanks to **Sandee Sharr** for sharing her creative expertise and serving as our ‘advertising consultant.’ I appreciate the time and effort that she set aside to help us to get the board up and

please see More Kudos, page 4

More Kudos, *cont. from page 3*

running. And how can I forget to thank **John McKay!** John, again, you hung in there with us and with your help and expertise—we did it! Thank you so much for helping us to look good again. I've gotten positive comments about the flag idea!"

Robert Plant from Riverview Hospital wanted to thank "all the people who were involved in the DCF recruitment event. I am very pleased to report that it was a tremendous success. The last word I had was that 12 nurses accepted offers to work at Riverview contingent on background and reference checks. This is wonderful news for DCF, for Riverview, and for the children and youth in our care. There were so many people involved in making this complex event such a success but I want to make sure and acknowledge the key players. My sincere thanks on this joint project go to **Dr. Pamela Libby, Diane Mazar Roberts, Patsy McLaughlin** and the **DAS staff** that

did a great job organizing the website, planning the event, and the process for handling such a large volume of applicants. Thanks again to everyone and my apologies if I forgot anyone."

Paul and Vee Carrington from The Carrington Company commended the **Procurement Staff** for the "tremendous job of putting together a trade show for government buyers and Connecticut vendors. The show was well organized and run in an extremely professional manner. The staff members who worked on the show were marvelous. They answered every question, were friendly, knowledgeable, and courteous—not easy to do while being bombarded with last-minute details! We exhibit in about ten trade shows every year, including a couple of national shows, and this is run as well or better than shows with full-time professional, experienced exhibit staff. All this while doing their regular jobs too! Thank you and your department for all the work. It certainly was worth it to us!"

Personnel Administrator Trish Krayeski from Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) wrote to Commissioner Barbara Waters and Deputy Commissioner Alan Mazzola applauding **Heather Tweeddale** stating, "I would like to take this opportunity to let you know how happy CCSU has been with Heather being our DAS HR liaison. Heather's service to our campus has been terrific. She is responsive, knowledgeable, pleasant, etc. and we are sorry to lose her. Thought you'd like to know how much our staff enjoyed working with Heather."

Executive Vice President Nancy R. Levin from the Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation praised **Pamela Libby** for her "gift of \$200 given to George Salpietro for his talk at CT \$HOPS. This gift for the 2003 guide dog training program will help us continue to give increased independence to men and women. As one who truly lives the Fidelco mission everyday, George is an inspiration to all. Your gift will help Fidelco continue to 'Share the Vision'. Thanks for caring."

DAS Holiday Party

December 19

Chowder Pot Restaurant

Noon until 4:00 p.m.

Food! Music! Prizes!

Tickets are \$18 until December 12, then \$23 after that date. You can contact the following people to purchase your tickets.

Nancy Jones - X5044

Linda Shackett-Blue - X5185

Diane Mazar-Roberts - X5188

Donna Wadhams - X5454

Marisol Rivera - X5351

Franky Rivera - X5421

Don Casella X5150

Lynn Peccerillo X5198

Cathy Stankowski X5477

Kathleen Kabara X 5231



What folks are saying about CT \$hops . . .

“Yes we will be back next year! We do maintenance contracts for DOL, DOT, and DPW. We were so successful last year at this event, we doubled our booth size this year,” said Jeff Bushe of Grainger.



John McKay, Adam Liegeot, Lynn Peccerillo

“We will definitely be back next year!” said Bruce Micale of Dunbar.



Carlos Velez

Justin Opotzner of Calvert Safe and Lock said, “We really like the layout this year compared to last year, with the tables in the middle. Now people are looking while they are eating.” It looks bigger this year too - more vendors.”



Devin Marquez (L) and Jim Neil

Margaret Moore of RISO said, “It is a wonderful event, and as with any tradeshow you get back as much as you give.”



Maureen Blackburn (L) and Laurie Melesko



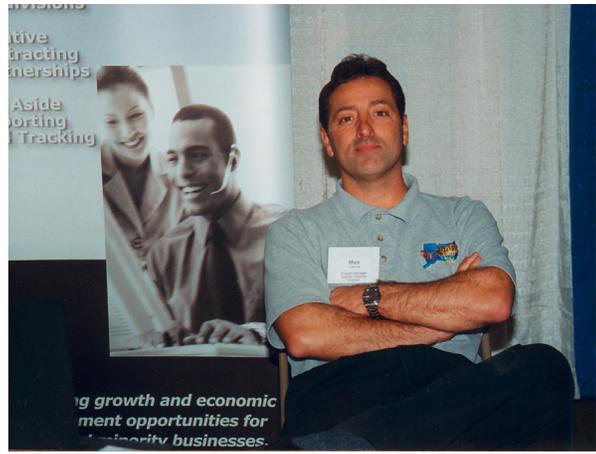
CT \$hops draws record crowds

Members of the Conard High School Solo Choir in West Hartford



“ This is our second year at CT \$hops – the turnout is better this year, we are getting great leads, and Yes we will definitely be here next year!” said Jennifer Pelletier of Office Furniture USA.

*“Really great!
We’ve made some
great contacts
today!” -
DocuSource Repre-
sentative*



Mark Carozza

*“We’ve been busy.
People are really im-
pressed with our prices
and keep taking our
catalogs. That’s a good
thing.” - Village Office
Supply*



Tracie Knapsack and John McKay

*David Schulman of Suburban:
“Yes we are getting new contracts
thanks to CT\$shops. As a matter of
fact, we are reserving this booth for
next year as we speak!”*

*“We’ve had more traffic
and visitors to our booth
than we expected!” - Swiss
Cleaners*



Above: Cheryl Sawina



Barbara Moser



Left: Billy Skyrme and Jim Passier

DAS employees doing lots of good stuff

By Nina Ritson

DAS Book Fair, November 5



Books can be fun as seen here at the DAS Books Are Fun book fair held on November 5. It only lasted a few short hours, but they raised \$268 for the Campaign for Charitable Giving. The selection was great for shoppers who came from DAS, DPW and Consumer Protection. Items just flew off the shelves. What a fantastic way to buy holiday gifts and raise money for charity at the same time! Once again a great DAS team worked hard and it showed. This year's fair was so popular they are planning one for next year already. Many thanks to the committee: Nancy Jones, Karen Rakowski, Linda Shackett-Blue, Franky Rivera, Marisol Rivera, Don Casella, Lynn Peccerillo, and Kathleen Kabara.

DAS Turkey Drive November 21 & 24

The bird was the word ...and the word was awesome!



Jerry Lynn (center), Mike Felix and a representative of Foodshare, were only too happy to talk turkey as they collected donations in front of the FoodShare truck outside the State Office Building.

Together, they collected 169 turkeys, \$1,348 in cash and checks. In the ten years DAS has been doing the drive, employees have donated almost 1,800 turkeys and over \$4,700!

The FoodShare driver then trucked the turkeys directly up to FoodShare in Windsor for immediate distribution.

Jerry reported "FoodShare had around 10,000 turkeys collected and they were pretty sure they would reach their goal of 14,000 birds."

He attributed this success to "the hard work of many people including his biggest cheerleaders, Jean Michael and Vin Lombardo and the cheerleading captain, Commissioner Waters."

He also thanked the State Department of Education (SDE) and Consumer Protection (DCP). "SDE's Barbara Canzonetti provides us a huge lift each year by steam rolling an unbelievable push from that agency. This year, Barbara coordinated a fund raising effort and with that money, she bought 97 turkeys. Further, it should be noted that many of the donations came from non-DAS employees, which means all SOB agencies were involved."



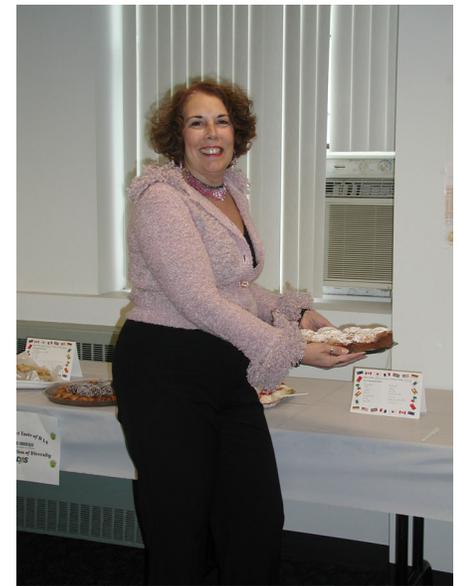
DIVERSITY Happenings

...our strength is in our differences

The Sweet Taste of DAS



Diversity Council members (L to R) Joyce Chin, Vin Lombardo, Diane Donato and Cheryl Drolet welcome colleagues to the Sweet Taste of DAS



Diane adds a dessert to the vast menu!



And How Sweet It Was!