



Photo by Tony Calabrese

Governor Rell Visits DAS Turkey Drive

by John McKay

Governor Rell stopped by the State Office Building on Monday, November 21 to make her donation to DAS' Foodshare drive. Arriving to a throng of office building employees anxious to meet the Governor, she said she was overwhelmed by the turnout.

"This is really great," said Governor Rell. "What you're doing here will really make a difference to countless state residents this holiday season." After making her donation, the Governor went through the crowd thanking each person individually for their efforts.

And it truly was a banner year! State Office Building employees collected 203 turkeys and almost \$1000 in cash and checks for Foodshare. The Foodshare representative informed DAS co-organizer Jerry Lynn that for every \$10 collected, Foodshare is able to stretch that into \$100!

The difference this year? "It had to be the Commissioner's handmade turkey costume," said Lynn. He went on to explain that he and co-organizer Mike Felix usually rent a turkey outfit each year. But the costume was beginning to take on a "leftover" scent, so they decided not to rent it anymore. Commissioner Yelmini had other plans and made a turkey costume to help drum up donations.

"Let's just say we weren't expecting the costume," said Lynn with a smile. "But it worked! We haven't had over 200 turkey donations since 2000."

A special holiday thank you to everyone who helped in the campaign or donated to Foodshare this year.

Don't worry, Jerry and Mike will be back next year. The question is, 'Which one will get to be the turkey?'



Inside this Issue

CT \$hops
2005

2

ERP
Winners

8

Sweet!

9



Governor Rell visited with employees from DAS, DPW, Education and Consumer Protection outside the State Office Building, as she thanked them for their generosity during this holiday season.

CT \$hops 2005 is Rated "The Best Ever!"



By John McKay and
Nina Ritson

With the combination of a brand new venue and a local legend as a keynote speaker, CT \$HOPS 2005 has been hailed by many as the best one so far.

"Our primary intention for this event is to increase DAS's and DOIT's existing contracted vendor exposure not only to agencies but to municipalities, schools and not-for-profits. And this year it appears that the new Connecticut Convention Center, as well as having Rebecca Lobo as our speaker, just added to the event," said event co-organizer Susanne Hawkins.

Procurement Director Carol Wilson was pleased with the turnout as well. "More in attendance means that more people will learn about the savings that are involved with purchasing off of state contracts," Wilson said and proceeded to cite some examples.

"The recently administered copier contract has saved state agencies nearly \$100,000 in the first quarter of this year alone, the State Contracting Portal has saved DAS at least \$300,000 a year through

continued on page 6

(Above from left to right)

Deputy Commissioner, Anna Ficeto, Director of Procurement, Carol Wilson, Rebecca Lobo, Commissioner Linda Yelmini.

(Far left from top to bottom)

Carol Wilson, Director of DAS Procurement opened the luncheon program at CT \$HOPS.

Commissioner Linda Yelmini recounted her story of her 5 year- old son's marriage proposal to Rebecca Lobo many years ago.

Rebecca Lobo shared Geno Auriemma stories with the 1500 luncheon guests.

The DAS Times is published
monthly
by the
Department of
Administrative Services
Communications Office
165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

M. Jodi Rell
Governor

Linda J. Yelmini
Commissioner

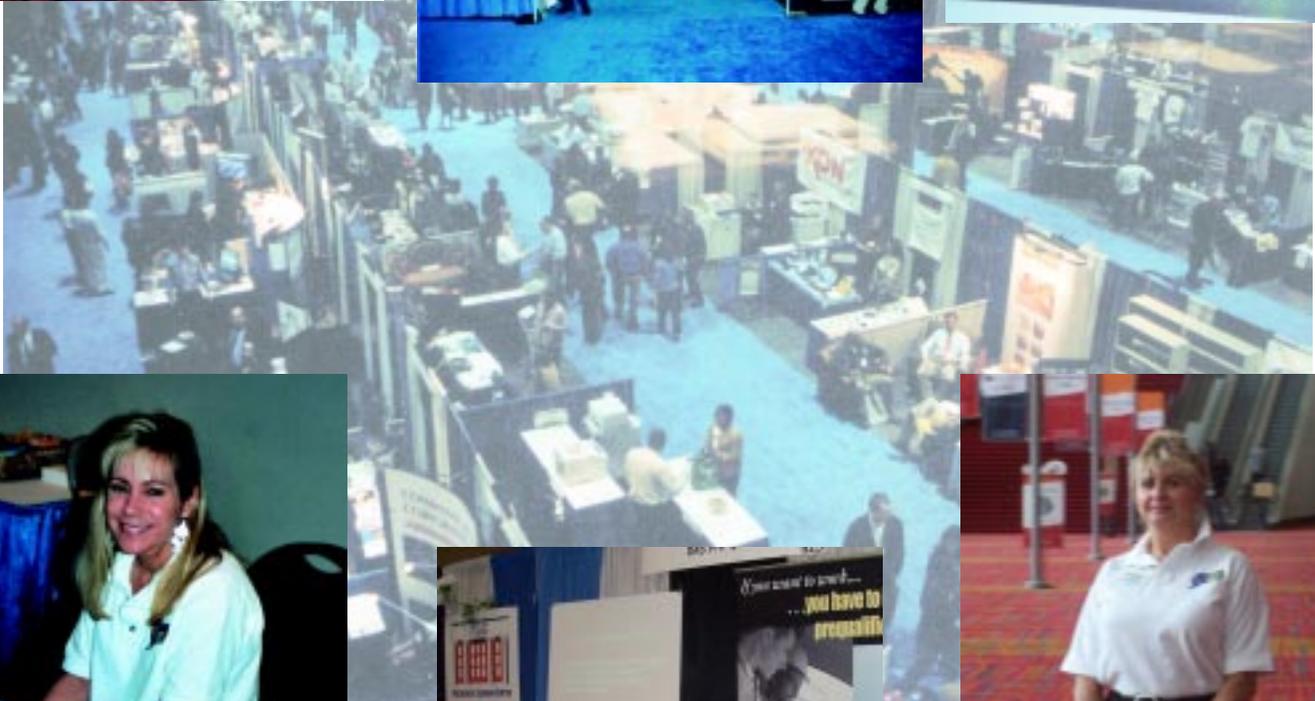
Donna J. Micklus
Editor

Visit our website at
www.das.state.ct.us

What's the buzz on CT \$HOPS ?



"This is absolutely better than the prior venue!"
John Shannon, Butler Woodcrafters



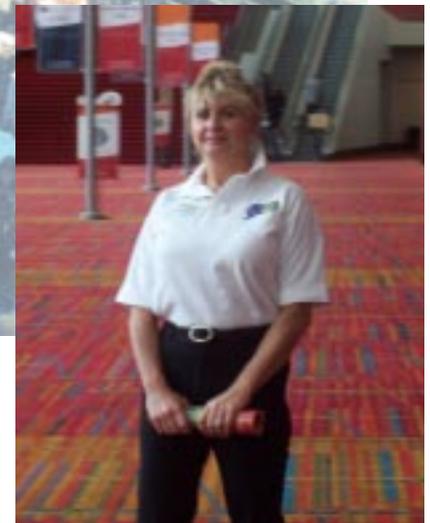
"I just wanted to let you know that the show was great. The site was fabulous, lunch was wonderful and the crowds seemed bigger. Thank you!"
Marcia Fowler, Herman Miller, Inc.

"We are very happy that we took part in CT Shops. After lunch we had quite an influx of state workers who were really interested in using our contract."
Global Link Translations



"The show was excellent and I see that the work by all DAS staff showed. Thanks for all your efforts."
Ron Marino of ADT, Silver Sponsor

"This year exceeded expectations- Fantabulous!!"
Tammy Bradley, Town of West Hartford



" I came here as a state employee but I am bringing information back to my office and to our church. As a non-profit, they are eager to do more business utilizing the state's contracts – so I am looking to save money for both. I am definitely interested in the DAS Printing Services!"
Carey Hurlburt, DEP

"First let me say, yesterday's CT Shops was the best yet! Thank you to the hard workers who made it possible."

Mary Norris, Department of Education

"Absolutely wonderful show. Great opportunity to meet many of the vendors we've been dealing with over the phone/Internet but also had the chance to hear about many new ideas/products that could help the East Hartford Public Schools save money and improve efficiency. My only request was to see more information seminars; i.e.. Green products, energy issues, etc. Overall – great show with great food and atmosphere! DAS did it again! Thank you! You make our jobs much easier!"

**Stanley Staron, Purchasing Agent,
East Hartford Public Schools**

"The vendors are very informative. I had a lot of questions about technical stuff and they were very helpful. I have been to all the CT Shops and this is the Best!"

Brenda Rossignol, River Valley Services, Middletown

"This is my third year, but this year was awesome! The atmosphere is open and it is very clean. Setting up was a breeze – easy access!"

Gregg Perin, Carrington Company

"Every year just gets better! We needed a safe for Teacher's Retirement and met with a gentleman at Calvert Lock and Safe – hence we bought one!" **Beverly Johnson and Leslie Cook, Teachers Retirement Board**



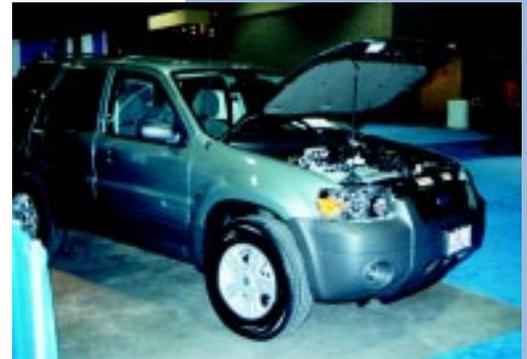
(Right) Roy Wynne, Mike Guimond and Alex Caceres from DAS Central Printing enjoyed their first CT \$HOPS.

(Right) Hybrid vehicles like the Ford SUV shown here are the way of the future.

(Right) Rebecca Lobo signs a CT \$HOPS program for an attendee who named her daughter Rebecca!

(Right) Pitney Bowes boasted their latest equipment and technology.

(Left) Rebecca Lobo with Arlene Watson.



Lunch is Now Being Served... in the Ballroom



“Food was awesome! Susanne and Tony are doing an outstanding job! This year was extremely well-organized and the layout was smooth! This Conventions Center is wonderful! Hats off to them!” **Jim Slater, Spacefitters**

“Lunch was great – soup was out of this world! I am always looking for people to be the subs to my general contractors – Small business and minority- or women-owned businesses in mind” **Peter Brandilini, University of Connecticut**

“Whoever made the choice to shut down the exhibit hall for the hour that lunch was served made a great decision!” **Cliff Demers, Wolf Color Print**

“This year was especially great! I really love the new location and lunch was fantastic!” **Dale Shaw, DECD**

Once again DAS has outdone themselves. The CT \$hops show was excellent, it is always a pleasure to meet the people I deal with on a daily basis through phone conversations face to face. The lunch was very delicious with great service.” **Robert Frank, Department of Correction**

“This is just great – the location is beautiful! We have been to CT \$HOPS every year and we just LOVE this place.” **Gaynell Martin, Department of Mental Retardation.**



“...I just wanted to thank you and the staff for the great vendor day this past week at the new conference center. The facility is beautiful, to say the least. Having worked (many years ago) on the New England Reading Conference, I realize what an undertaking it involves and how much work and effort is required. This said, I congratulate you on your successful event. It was a real treat to hear Rebecca Lobo, too.” **Marge Healy, Territory Manager, School Specialty Education Essentials**

There are a lot more people this year than last year – or we are getting more people interested at our booth! This year we gave them the option to take the catalog and carry it with them or to fill out a form and we would mail it to them – the latter has been most popular!” **Steve St. Jean, Suburban Stationers**

continued from page 2

reduced costs for paper, mailing and legal notices. Savings to agencies now using the portal could far exceed this over time, and despite the rising cost of fuel, DAS reduced costs on the state's gasoline contract nearly \$275,000 over the next three years through focused negotiations and new contract approaches," she said during her remarks to the CT \$HOPS audience.

At a luncheon of more than 1500 people, Commissioner Linda Yelmini said, "DAS is proud to host our fourth annual CT \$HOPS for a number of reasons...we always love to welcome colleagues and vendors from across the state... but most

importantly, this gives us the opportunity to highlight two key goals: our commitment to open, transparent government purchasing and our commitment to help sister agencies, towns and schools to save money by shopping off state contracts."

Keynote speaker and UConn great Rebecca Lobo regaled the crowd with amusing anecdotes from her days as a basketball player, while gently teasing everyone from Coach Geno Auriemma, to Pat Summit to Kara Wolters.

Lobo later signed autographs for attendees and vendors. "This has been great," said Lobo, "I've been dying to see inside the convention center and CT \$HOPS really gave me a feel for what this place is like when it's full."



(Left top to bottom):

*Maureen Friedman
Alex Caceres
Laurie Melesko
Rebecca Lobo*

(Right):

*Carlos Velez and
Cindy Shea, aka the God
and Goddess of Training!*



"I wanted to say to Susanne and Tony especially, as well as to the rest of Carol's staff, you guys were fabulous. What a great job!! You are the best examples of state employees, and I only wish that the newspapers would find this kind of work to be newsworthy. You make me proud to be a state employee, too. Congratulations to all."

Linda Yelmini, Commissioner, DAS

Susanne Hawkins and Tony DeLuca thanked the entire Procurement Services staff. "Without the support and hard work of everyone on the staff an event on this scale would not be possible. It really took the combined efforts of a great group of people to make this event so successful. Thank you all!"

They also extended their thanks and appreciation to the **DAS Communications Office** and **DAS Print Shop**. "**Nina Ritson, Billy Skyrme, John McKay, Alex Caceres, Mike Guimond and Roy Wynne**, you handled all our requests from the website updates/changes, weekly Buylines articles, program book, signing on Rebecca Lobo to speak at the event, embossing nametags, copying, creating and mounting the event posters...the list just goes on and on. It was much more work than we anticipated but you all really came

through with flying colors. It was a real pleasure to working with you all!"

Hawkins also offered a personal thank you to **Karen Rakowski** of the DAS Business

Office for all her accounting abilities in managing the accounts receivables for the CT \$shops event. "Karen provided such excellent customer service and at the same time she made the CT \$shops accounting process so easy because she took care of everything!"

A special thanks goes to the **DAS Business Office** for all their efforts in processing the checks for the CT \$shops event. **Brian Saczawa** and **Juliette Colebrook**, thank you for that special deliveryyour timing couldn't have been any better!



The 2005 Governor's Care & Share Food Drive Program

The 2005 Governor's Care & Share Food Drive Program will continue through Friday, December 9.

Please bring your non-perishable items to the Fifth Floor South Hallway and look for signs!

Suggested Food Items	Personal Hygiene Items
----------------------	------------------------

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Tuna | Shampoo |
| 100% Fruit Juices | Conditioner |
| Spaghetti and Sauce | Lotion |
| Rice | Toothbrushes |
| Canned Fruit | Toothpaste |
| Oatmeal | Deodorant |
| Beans | |
| Peanut Butter | |
| Canned Vegetables | |
| Canned Meats | |
| Cereal | |
| Macaroni and Cheese | |
| Chunky Soups | |

If you have any questions, please contact Pam Anderson at 713-5088 or Eileen Morin at 713-5028.

Campaign for Charitable Giving



Kathleen Kabara and her daughter, Erin, also known as 'Monkey Princess' are shown here at the jewelry event that Kathleen hosted to help raise money for the State Employees Campaign for Charitable Giving. Thanks to Kathleen's incredible talents creating necklaces, earrings and bracelets, Monkey Princess Designs raised \$117 for the campaign.

Employee Recognition Goes to.....

by John McKay



It's Employee Recognition time again, as this round's proud winners were announced last week with flourishes and drumrolls.

For Customer Service, Ruthie Hatten and Mike Owsianko, take a bow!

Their nomination read, "It is not unusual to see them in the front of the counter helping members of the public use the computer for human resources or procurement. In many instances, Ruthie and Mike are the public's first, and sometimes only, direct contact with DAS. They project a great attitude and image."

For Team Excellence, Deb Hearl, Gregg Nome, Dan Sears and Matt Shea, take a bow! They came together to design, test and implement an online application system for the Supplier Diversity Program. For over 14 months this team met to develop this system which will save everyone involved with Supplier Diversity time and money. Nominator Meg Yetishefsky wrote, "The use of technology will provide a paperless product, a convenient and friendly product, to the Small Business community and move DAS into the 21st century."



Mike Owsianko and Ruthie Hatten

In the **Going the Extra Mile** award, there are no other candidates that come close to what **Procurement's Tony DeLuca and Susanne Hawkins** did for CT \$hops 2005. **Tony and Susanne, take a bow!**

CT \$hops is DAS' largest event, showcasing state-approved vendors to other state and local entities. And this year's has been hailed as "the best ever." The nominator wrote, "Not only did Susanne and Tony volunteer to run with this at such a late date, they've done this all while maintaining their workload, reducing the amount of staff involvement, adding new draws to the show, and keeping it within budget."

Winners and their guests are invited to a celebratory luncheon at the Solomon Welles house in Wethersfield where they'll receive their award certificates from Commissioner Linda Yelmini.

Congratulations to all for the great work you do!



Dan Sears, Deb Hearl, Matt Shea, and Gregg Nome



DAS Holiday Party

Friday, December 16, 2005

Chowder Pot Restaurant
Hartford, CT
Noon to 4 p.m.

\$25.00 per person

Don't Forget to Buy Your Ticket before December 9!

DIVERSITY

...our strength is in our differences

Happenings



The Sweet Taste of DAS December 1, 2005

From Aginettes from Italy to Queso de Leche from Ecuador, the Third Annual Sweet Taste of DAS was once again an epicurean delight for everyone from light eaters to feasters.

This scrumptious spread included homemade goodies like European blackberry sour cake, biscotti, canolis, and Tiramisu from Italy, Christmas stolen from Germany, cream cheese torte from France, flan from Puerto Rico, and chocolate pudding cake from Diane Prebleland. And what would the good old U.S. of A. be without Oreo cookie cake, peanut butter kisses, and pumpkin pie?!

Standing elegant and proud was the 36-egg cookie-cake tree *Raguolis* from Lithuania, now an annual favorite, compliments of Teresa Dupont.

A special thanks, once again, to the Diversity Council for the chance to gather with co-workers, celebrate our culture and our diverse workplace!

