



In Brief

CHIF Celebrates 40th Anniversary

Mayor of Hartford Declares June 18 Connecticut Housing Investment Fund Day

Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez proclaimed "Connecticut Housing Investment Fund Day" in Hartford at a ceremony on June 18 commemorating the Fund's 40th anniversary.

Joining the Mayor and CHIF staff and board members to celebrate were 100 guests including representatives from banks, foundations, and government agencies.

In his remarks, Mayor Perez said, "Homeownership makes residents a stakeholder in the community. It builds personal wealth, community pride, and makes our neighborhoods more attractive for economic development through entrepreneurship. This builds a stronger and more vibrant city. The opportunity for homeownership stems from a more educated and thus a more competitive workforce." The Mayor commended CHIF for being an organization that "truly gives back to the community."

To commemorate its anniversary, CHIF established a new scholarship program for a Hartford High School student



CHIF Staff members pose for an anniversary picture. CHIF celebrated its 40th anniversary with a celebration on June 18.

who had been active in community development activities. Because of their outstanding achievements, CHIF selected two students who each received \$500. Receiving the awards at the celebration were Krystle Torres and Rachel Kisten, both residents of Hartford.

"We are thrilled to offer scholarships to two wonderful students who exemplify CHIF's work," stated CHIF president and CEO Cynthia L. Russell. "We hope Krystle and Rachel will be inspired to work in the field of affordable housing after they graduate".

CHIF was established in 1968 by two Hartford families to help minority families purchase their first homes. CHIF has continuously operated numerous programs for 40 years, and now serves the entire state. The organization has helped over 50,000 Connecticut residents purchase affordable housing, and has financed more than \$137 million to develop or rehabilitate housing.

For more information about CHIF's loan programs, please visit www.chif.org.



Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez and **Councilman Matthew D. Ritter** presented CHIF President and CEO, Cynthia L. Russell, with a proclamation and commended CHIF for its positive impact in Hartford.

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Laurie Evans joins CHIF as Vice President of Finance



Laurie Evans is CHIF's new Vice President of Finance.

CHIF welcomes Laurie Evans, its new Vice President of Finance. Laurie comes to CHIF with over 22 years of experience in accounting, banking, and finance.

Prior to joining CHIF as Vice President of Finance, Laurie served as Controller for a Connecticut-based home improvement company, Home Comfort Now, where she managed the accounting department. Prior to that, Laurie served as CFO for a health care service provider and real estate developer for eleven years.

Laurie has studied at the University of Hartford, and has an Associates Degree in Accounting/Business Administration from Manchester Community College. She has extensive knowledge of computer applications and systems and will be helping to keep CHIF's computer systems running smoothly.

Since joining CHIF, Laurie has implemented many new efficiencies to CHIF's accounting department and loan servicing department. Laurie can be reached at LEvans@chif.org.

Kristen Caplin Receives Award From First-Time Homebuyer Magazine

Kristen Caplin, CHIF's Program Administrator for Mortgage Programs, has been selected by the First-Time HomeBuyer Magazine as one of 25 "Homeownership Partners" for her efforts in helping first-time homebuyers in the mortgage process.

The magazine honored Kristen and 24 other Homeownership Partners at a luncheon on June 11th. The Homeownership Partners were recognized for their work in "helping others achieve the dream" of homeownership.

Kristen was nominated for the award by homebuyers she assisted in obtaining a mortgage through CHIF's First-Time Homebuyer program. Kristen manages CHIF's First-Time Homebuyer Program, and has helped 12 families become homeowners since CHIF launched the program in 2007.



Kristen Caplin, fourth from left, is shown receiving her award at a special ceremony at the Lyceum.

For more information about CHIF's First-Time Homebuyer Program, contact Kristen Caplin at:

(860) 761-1627
or visit www.chif.org

CHIF Staff Member to Attend Graduate School

With sadness, CHIF said farewell in June to Megan Malone, Loan Servicing Representative. Megan will be attending the University of North Carolina Master's Program in Natural Resources Management.

During her time at CHIF, Megan assisted many of CHIF's borrowers and participated in several special projects.

CHIF wishes her the best in her studies, and will miss her.



(left to right) CHIF staff **Tara Vary**, **Megan Malone**, and **Lisa Ruggeri**, preparing for CHIF's anniversary celebration.



CHIF Staff Participate in HomeFest 2008



CHIF staff **Ernesto Guardado**, **Lisa Ruggeri**, and **Kristen Caplin** pose with the Rock Cats mascot at HomeFest.

Kristen Caplin, Cynthia Russell, Lisa Ruggeri, and Ernesto Guardado represented CHIF at a booth at the first annual HomeFest held at the Hartford Expo Center on Saturday, April 12th. Hundreds of Connecticut residents came to the event to learn about home buying mortgage programs. CHIF staff distributed applications for both the ECL

and home mortgage programs, and gave attendees CHIF gifts. As part of the event, CHIF conducted a bus tour with representatives from the MetroHartford Alliance, NHI, and NINA of residential neighborhoods in Hartford. The tour included a stop at the new affordable homes completed by CIL on Grafton Street in the Behind the Rocks neighborhood.

CHIF Staff Walk for Autism

Several members of the CHIF staff walked at Walnut Hill Park in New Britain on Sunday, June 8, in the 6th annual *Greater Hartford Walk Now for Autism*. CHIF's team raised \$1,115 for autism research.

Pictured from left to right, first row are: Stanislaw Olejarczyk, Megan Malone, Josh Ruggeri, and Lisa Ruggeri

Second Row: Ernesto Guardado, Lynne Malone, Parelea Morgan, Cynthia Russell, Carith Dean, Tara Vary, and Kristen Caplin



CHIF Staff Members Receive Awards for Years of Service to CHIF

CHIF honored two staff members at its 40th anniversary celebration with awards for their years of dedicated service to CHIF.



Parelea Morgan, Assistant Manager of Loan Servicing, received an award from **Cynthia Russell**, President and CEO, for her twenty-five years of service to CHIF.

Parelea Morgan, Assistant Manager of Loan Servicing, has worked at CHIF for twenty-five years. Pal is a integral member of the CHIF team and helps to keep the daily operations of the Loan Servicing Department running efficiently.

Lisa Ruggeri, Program Administrator, was presented an award for her twenty years of service. Lisa helps Connecticut residents obtain low-interest loans through the Energy Conservation Loan Program (ECL), the Multifamily Loan Program (MEL), and several other loan programs that CHIF operates.



Cynthia Russell, President and CEO, presented **Lisa Ruggeri**, Program Administrator, with an award honoring her twenty years of service to CHIF.

CHIF greatly appreciates Pal and Lisa's dedication to helping Connecticut residents become and remain homeowners.

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CHIF Celebrates 40th Anniversary With a Series of Year-Long Events



A new sign was hung in front of CHIF's offices commemorating CHIF's 40th anniversary, and noting "established in 1968."

To commemorate its 40 years, CHIF is conducting a series of events throughout 2008 to exemplify CHIF's mission. The events are:

- Presentation of a new CHIF Community Development scholarship awarded to two Hartford High School students
- Participation in the Greater Hartford Walk Now for Autism
- Donation of 205 food items as well as a monetary donation to the Farmington Avenue United Methodist Church Food Pantry
- Bus tour for CHIF staff members of RHRI projects CHIF has funded in New Haven
- Presentation of certificates of appreciation given to funders and government agencies for their support of CHIF's work at the June 18 reception
- Publication of a timeline illustrating CHIF's accomplishments from 1968 to 2008
- Installation of a new sign in front of the CHIF offices
- Presentation to randomly selected loan servicing clients of CHIF logo totebags containing materials related to CHIF's anniversary. CHIF staff are selecting two clients monthly through a random draw, and are mailing these gifts.

- 20,000 ECL loans closed
- \$1.5 million in USDA loans financed

CHIF by the Numbers

- \$3.3 million Interim Bridge loans financed
- \$15 million Neighborhood Rebuilder loans financed