



Employee News

Governor M. Jodi Rell

Commissioner Peter H. O'Meara

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Fourth Annual Soups for the Soul Day Warms Up Central Office

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Director of Quality Assurance Daniel Micari, (pictured) recently proclaimed Soups for the Soul Day in Central Office. This is the fourth year that CO employees took "Time to Pause and Share" in this mid-winter tradition. Over thirty homemade soups were served, accompanied by breads and pastries.

DMR

www.ct.gov/dmr

Central Office

(860) 418-6000

North Region

(860) 263-2500

West Region

(203) 805-7400

South Region

(203) 294-5049

STS

(203) 586-2000

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, WE, THE CENTRAL OFFICE DEVOTED, AGAIN ASSEMBLE IN KEEPING WITH OUR FIRMLY ROOTED TRADITION OF MID-WINTER RESPITE; AND

WHEREAS, WE CELEBRATE THE LONGEVITY AND WISDOM OF OUR REMAINING AND EVER PATIENT TEIR 1 BRE-THEREN; AND

WHEREAS, WE WELCOME THE NEW MEMBERS OF OUR CAPITOL AVENUE WORKFORCE, WITHOUT REGARD FOR THEIR PARKING PRIVELEDGES; AND

WHEREAS, WE COMPASSIONATELY REFLECT UPON THE REALITY OF WHAT HAS BEEN LOST BY OUR FELLOW AMERICANS ON THE GULF COAST, WHILE NOT LOSING SIGHT OF THEIR ONGOING NEEDS; AND

WHEREAS, WE CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON OUR TRUSTED CHARGE AS DMR EMPLOYEES EVER MINDFUL OF OUR QUEST FOR EXCELLENCE; AND

WHEREAS, THE AIRWAYS AND BOOKSHELVES IN OUR BUSY LIVES ARE CLUTTERED WITH TECHNOLOGY, THEORY, AND PRACTICES AIMED AT ACHEIVEING GOOD HEALTH; AND

WHEREAS, OUR LIVES ARE HEAVILY WEIGHTED BY THE RESULTS OF TECHNOLOGICAL DISTRACTIONS AND DEMANDS OF EMIAL, VOICE MAIL, CELL PHONES, PAGERS AND BLACKBERRIES; AND

WHEREAS, COMMON SENSE HAS ASSUMED A DIMINSHED STATUS IN EVERYDAY LIFE AND GREED HAS CLIMBED THE LADDER OF CHOSEN PRACTICE; AND

WHEREAS, FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND COMMITMENT ARE THE ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS FOR PERSONAL HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS; AND

WHEREAS, WE FIND OURSELVES AMONG THE BLESSED IN THE TRICENTINAL YEAR 2006; AND

WHEREAS, THE SEASON'S DARKNESS SLOWLY EMERGES FROM ITS EQUINOCTIAL GRIP AS WE CALMLY LADEL TODAY'S BOUNTY; AND

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DANIEL A. MICARI, DELARE THIS 19TH DAY OF JANUARY 2006 AS THE FOURTH ANNUAL SOUPS FOR THE SOUL DAY.

DANIEL A. MICARI

"Ask the Commissioner"

If you have a question for Commissioner O'Meara, you are invited to e-mail Joan Barnish at joan.barnish@po.state.ct.us Watch for your response in future newsletter editions.

Newsworthy articles should be forwarded to your regional **DMR Employee News** contacts:

North/Linda Schaefer

West/Eunice Rivera

South/Jolie Cresimano-Goss

North Region Names New Assistant Regional Director



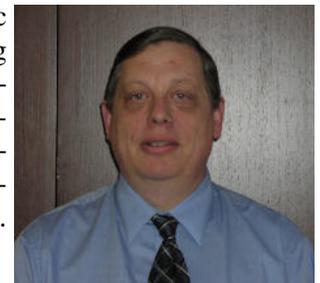
Mr. Brian Dion recently was named North Region's Assistant Regional Director for Private Administrative Services. Mr. Dion has over twenty-two years management experience in the field of services and supports for people with mental retardation. Over the years, he has held a number of positions in both state government and private agencies.

Prior to coming to DMR, Mr. Dion held the position of State Director of Residential Services and Provider Development in Tennessee. While in that role for the past five years, he has taken the lead role in recruiting private provider agencies, adding services to address waiting list requirements, and revamping the rate structure and payment methodology for the State of Tennessee. He has also been involved in the development and implementation of Medicaid Waiver programs in that state. All of these experiences are directly related to the issue that we are currently facing in the DMR North Region. Other past experiences include volunteer work with people with disabilities as well as working as a direct care worker. Mr. Dion has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Connecticut.

Mr. Dion started in his new position on Friday, January 20, 2006 and can be reached at (860) 263-2495 or via his email address brian.dion@po.state.ct.us.

New Plant Facility Engineer Joins North Region Team

Mr. Warren Schilling recently started as Plant Facility Engineer for North Region Public Residential and Day Supports and will be based in the East Hartford Office. Before joining the DMR, he worked as an engineering consultant, a Facilities and Plant Engineer at International Fuel Cells, World Color and Allied Printing Services. Mr. Schilling has a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering/Construction and has Connecticut Licenses in Professional Engineering and Master Electrical. He has a wealth of experience in construction oversight, energy conservation and industrial design. Please join the North Region in welcoming Mr. Schilling.



South Region Office Follows Their Hearts

South Region Employees know how to give from their hearts. Over the past year, employees from the Uncas Office have made donations for a new horse, Hurricane Relief and the state's Charitable Giving Campaign.

Last summer, Kerry Hayward, South Region Program Supervisor, got word that a horse, named Max was being retired and available for sale. The Therapeutic Horseback Riding Program, developed jointly by the DMR Shore Road Team and Seabird Enterprises, was looking for a gentle horse to enhance their program. Max fit the bill. Ms. Hayward started a fundraiser among the Uncas office employees, who in-turn donated over \$1000.00 toward the purchase of Max, a cart, and a bale of hay. Max now lives happily at the Riverview Farm in Uncasville, works with our consumers, and loves his new job and home.

When hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit, DMR Nurse Consultant Fran Park wondered what we could do to help give people their power back. She started a fundraiser, called "Potluck and a Couple of Bucks." Uncas office employees shared good food together and donated \$1,156 towards the purchase of a generator to be sent to the Gulf area which now supports one family in Cameron, Louisiana who lost everything to the storm.

Finally, Uncas office employees reached in again and pledged over \$10,000 during the 2005 Campaign for Charitable Giving. All the employees should be commended for their generous support of these worthy causes.