



TEAM inc

Strengthening Communities - Making A Difference

COMMUNITY ACTION REPORT

Welcome, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro!

TEAM had the honor of hosting Congresswoman DeLauro alongside the CT Office of Early Childhood and the Head Start State Collaboration Office at our early childhood center in Ansonia to celebrate \$9.2 million in continued funding for operating our contracted Head Start program.

While this funding allows us to continue to serve the hundreds of children who come through our doors smiling each day, we recognize that our funding is vulnerable, and any cuts would be detrimental to the families in our region. That is why our guests offered remarks beside our very own TEAM champions – Yvette Cartagena, Robyn Stanley and Jackee Parks. As Head Start parents, educators and advocates, our colleagues shined as they told their stories, their experiences and their WHYs – why they have dedicated their time to Head Start and the thousands of families who have participated in the program throughout the years. TEAM was proud to add our voice to the chorus of advocates who are fighting for increased funding for our program.

Head Start offers incredible ROI - six dollars of economic benefit for every dollar spent running the program, as it allows families to work during the day while their children are in a safe place. And of course, Head Start offers children from all backgrounds equal access to early learning opportunities to provide a solid foundation for the rest of their educational experience. Our gratitude was expressed to the Congresswoman for her continued advocacy on behalf of TEAM's Head Start programs and others around the nation. [#HeadStartMatters](#)



March is Meals on Wheels month

Every March across the nation, local Meals on Wheels providers like TEAM celebrate National Meals on Wheels month to highlight the importance of this program.

Throughout the month, neighbors across our community came together to support TEAM Meals on Wheels. When they visited local businesses like Troy Industrial Solutions, Smith's Ansonia Shell station, Heavn'ly Donuts or the Yankee Clipper Barbershop, and even in the Shelton High School cafeteria, customers chipped in to add their name to the wall of supporters.

Over \$2,600 was collected to support TEAM's Meals on Wheels program in the Valley! Each day, our dedicated drivers hit the road to deliver fresh, healthy meals for older adults who cannot cook on their own - providing not only a nutritious meal, but also a friendly check-in.

Our neighbors like Pauline (pictured left) and their families find such value and peace of mind with the Meals on Wheels program.

Don't wait til next March!
Chip in anytime at givebutter.com/teamdonate



TAX SEASON

TEAM's 2025-2026 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program

Households who earned under \$69,000 annually were eligible to have their taxes filed for free by TEAM's IRS-certified and trained VITA volunteers. Filers visited one of TEAM's three tax prep sites in Derby, Beacon Falls, or Milford.

The VITA program not only saves families hundreds of dollars in tax preparation fees, but also guarantees the maximum refund by thoroughly examining all potential tax credits for which one might qualify.

VITA 2026 Season Fast Facts:

 **1,176 returns** filed

 **\$1,566,317 in refunds** back into the pockets of our clients



 **\$351,000 saved** in tax preparation fees (est.)

 **Average Gross Income Per Filer: \$38,300**

 **695 seniors** served

38 volunteers contributed **1,553 hours** to make this possible!



ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Each winter, TEAM's Home Heating Assistance (Energy) program helps keep households in our region safe and warm. Funded by the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP), residents of our region can apply to TEAM for a set dollar amount of support to help heat their homes. TEAM will pay approved households' heating vendors directly to ensure the heat stays on and families stay safe during the cold winter months. TEAM can also conduct full cleaning, testing and tuning of home heating systems to ensure maximum efficiency, and coordinate emergency system replacements.

This past winter season 2025-26, TEAM supported nearly 5,100 homes and families across our community.



CONGRATULATIONS to our chef contest winners!

BEST APPETIZER - Harry's Stingin' Wings by Harry Burlakoff

BEST SIDE DISH - Haitian Mac & Cheese by Erica Pierre

BEST ENTREE - Prime Rib Sliders by Munch Eatery

BEST DESSERT - Cinnamon Rolls by Saraphina Pierre

BEST TABLE DECOR - Mini Munch Sliders

\$70,000 RAISED FOR TEAM PROGRAMS!

Our community came together on April 25th for a night of food, drinks, dancing, raffles and more, all in support of the work of TEAM!