



# CHATTER THAT MATTERS®

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## A Message from Greg Smith:

One of the most common first thoughts you hear within CT Lottery, and from outside sources as well, is about our sales and profits — \$1.5 billion in annual sales and \$400 million in profits. We are without a doubt a successful company when viewed through the financial lens.

Of equal importance are the steps we take along the way to reach those impressive sales and profits numbers. By this I mean our hiring, our vendor and partner selections, our ownership of responsibilities, and just helping out in general. It is from these efforts where we develop and improve our style, our spirit, and our commitments.

You will see stories in this issue about how we, both as a company and individually, take steps to ensure we get really well-qualified job applicants, vendors and suppliers, and business partners who help define who we are. We don't just post job openings; we make sure we put ourselves and our open positions in front of various sources of qualified interested candidates. We don't just make a few calls to see where we can buy something we need; we actively participate in organizations where we can meet the relevant companies and their staff. And we don't just send money to support problem gaming services; we participate in and coordinate events that impact multiple beneficiaries such as

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... And More!



# CLC's Newest Diversity Partner: Minority Construction Council, Inc. (MCC)

By Suzanne Colley



MCC held its annual Construction Expo and Matchmaker Event in early October and members of the CLC Purchasing Department participated in this excellent opportunity.

Our team consisted of Marilyn Benjamin, Stephen Day, and Suzanne Colley. We met many vendors and in particular, WC McBride Electrical Contractors, Inc. Interestingly, we had a recent opportunity to contract with this vendor to readjust a damaged light pole pillar in the back driveway.



CLC Purchasing Team Members Marilyn Benjamin and Stephen Day.

## Event Calendar

|                           |  |                        |
|---------------------------|--|------------------------|
| October 19-20             | Center for Women & Enterprise (CWE) 2022 Women Business Leaders Conference                                       | Virtual                |
| October 20                | CT Council on Problem Gambling (CCPG) Annual Conference  | Glastonbury, CT        |
| October 28                | Society of Human Engagement and Business Alignment (SHEBA) Presentation  | Virtual                |
| November 16               | Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council (GNEMSDC) Minority Development Forum                   | Boston, MA and Virtual |
| November 21               | CLC Employee Milestone Awards Ceremony   | CLC Headquarters       |
| November 28 - December 30 | CLC Give a Child a Toy, Not a Ticket Gift Responsibly Campaign   | Statewide              |
| December 2                | All Employee RG Training   | CLC Headquarters       |
| December 9                | Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council (GNEMSDC) Annual Supplier Diversity Awards Celebration | Cambridge, MA          |

# Responsible Gaming Education Month

By: Christopher Davis

In September, CLC joined its sportsbook partner Rush Street Interactive in commemorating the American Gaming Association's first annual Responsible Gaming Education Month (RGEM).



Throughout the month, our sportsbook patrons were reminded of the importance of responsible play and provided with helpful tips to keep their play within safe limits. CLC also hosted multiple sports betting employee training sessions throughout September to empower our employees who come in contact with sports betting patrons with the knowledge and tools to help our players who may be struggling with their gaming habits.

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## CLC Awarded NCPG's 2022 Gift Responsibly Campaign Award

By Christopher Davis

For the past eight holiday seasons, CLC has hosted the annual "Give a Child a Toy, Not a Ticket" gift responsibly campaign and toy drive. With the growing support of partners throughout the state, CLC employees have been able to help collect nearly 30,000 toys over the years to help comfort patients at Connecticut Children's while helping spread the responsible gambling message that lottery tickets are not appropriate gifts for children under 18.



These commendable efforts have not gone unnoticed at the national level. At their national conference this year, the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) awarded CLC the 2022 Gift Responsibly Campaign Award for our annual "Give a Child a Toy, Not a Ticket" campaign, recognizing CLC as a national leader in helping spread this ever important responsible gambling message.

As we head towards this year's holiday season, we look forward to another successful toy drive and messaging campaign that will feature for the first time the ability for employees and the public to make monetary donations in addition to donating a toy. Stay tuned for more information about this year's campaign!



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our long standing Give a Toy, Not a Ticket Campaign. The national recognition is welcome, but it pales in comparison to the look on a child's face (and their family's too) when they can be distracted from their medical condition to play with the toys we provide to Connecticut Children's.

And best of all is when each of us does our part to help with something in our community or state to make something better for others. Many of these efforts do not require contributing money. They just need your time, and sometimes your knowledge for how to get something done. I can promise you that your personal satisfaction will grow because you helped someone and asked for nothing in return.

Each of your personal styles, spirit and commitments show up in your work effort and become part of CLC's ingredients for our success.

— Greg Smith

## Vendor Spotlight: Printmark Services

By: Suzanne Colley

PRO  
BUSINESS

Printmark Services is a woman-owned small business in operation for nearly forty years. Encouraging diversity and promotion from within, their staff is comprised of 50% females and 42% minorities and has a combined 120 years of experience servicing State and local government agencies in addition to small, medium and Fortune 500 companies.

INCLUSION

Printmark offers quality and service. They specialize in print, mailings, signs and have over the years provided the CLC with business forms, promotional products, and signage such as our "Big Winner Checks."



A sample of items the CLC has worked with Printmark Services to procure.



# Annual Disability Employment Recognition Event

By: Suzanne Colley

On October 7, 2022 Mayor Erin E. Stewart and the City of New Britain Community Services Recognized disability-friendly businesses and people. Our own Albert Chmura received a special recognition for his contribution and work at the CLC. You may or may not know, Albert's primary assignment at the Lottery is to refurbish acrylic dispensers, a task for which he takes great pride.



He was so pleased — what a great day for Albert and his family and what a great source of community for the Lottery. Suzanne Colley and Christopher Davis were among the guests at this event.



*Albert Chmura receives his certificate of recognition.*

## CLC Participates in Hiring Expo

By: Jodi Ganzer

On September 21, CLC participated in the Hartford Athletics Hiring Expo. This event, in conjunction with the Connecticut Department of Labor, focused on Veterans and Diverse candidates and was held at Trinity Health Stadium in Hartford.

Over 100 companies, both public and private, were represented at the event and more than 800 job seekers attended. CLC continues to expand its recruitment efforts both in person and virtually to reach and attract a diverse candidate pool.



*CLC Human Resources Assistant Jenean McCalla*

# Volunteer Spotlight: Keeping Scholarships Alive

By: Annmarie Daigle [original story from Meriden Record-Journal]

When the Puerto Rican Festival was canceled for two years in a row due to COVID, scholarships associated with the festival actually increased thanks to an initiative involving coffee mugs and U.S. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona.



While the festival, which typically draws thousands of people to Hubbard Park in Meriden, was canceled, scholarships were not. Miguel Cardona would typically be involved in the scholarships, but since his responsibilities have risen to the national level that task has been taken on by Diana Alicea, a cousin who usually oversees the cultural tent at the festival.

The festival committee typically awards \$1,000 scholarships to students at each Meriden high school: Platt, Maloney and Wilcox Tech. That has now expanded to an additional \$1,000 scholarship for each high school, plus \$4,000 in scholarships for adult learners, including college students and those attending technical school. The boost from the sale of mugs was unanticipated. The impulse arose just before Christmas, when Miguel Cardona, then Connecticut's education commissioner, was nominated to become the nation's education secretary. It was then that Alicea and her neighbor, Cathy Martorella, came up with the idea.

"We were talking about Miguel and how excited we were," recalled Alicea. "There's such pride in the family and it was so cool to be able to celebrate with them," said Martorella.

The effort also included Alicea's daughter, Briana Alicea, who designed the print on the mug. The idea was to give one as a gift to Miguel Cardona. The mugs have a photo of Cardona and the phrase "as American as apple pie and rice & beans."



Catherine Martorella, right, with her neighbor Diana.



Thanks to the mug sales, \$8,000 was donated to the scholarship fund, said Alicea. "We had tremendous success with them."

When President Biden introduced Cardona as his pick for education secretary in late 2020, he called him "a brilliant educator who would help further his administration's commitment to reopening schools safely," according to the Associated Press report at the time.

Miguel Cardona, who made several comments in Spanish, highlighted his upbringing: "I, being bilingual and bicultural, am as American as apple pie and rice and beans," he said.

The phrase has helped have an exponential influence when it comes to the mugs, which sell for \$20 with part of the proceeds going toward the scholarship fund.

The mugs have now traveled to recipients as far as Alaska and Puerto Rico. "It was amazing," said Diana Alicea, "we mailed them all over the place."

From the modest beginning at Miguel Cardona's nomination, sales started accelerating at the turn of the new year with the establishment of a page on Facebook, at <https://www.facebook.com/ApplePieAndRiceAndBeansMugs/>

"People just kept ordering them," recalled Martorella.

Martorella and Diana Alicia would spend weekends in January and February at Maloney High School, where those who'd ordered could pick up their mugs.

Martorella said that in 16 years as a city resident, "I've never seen such hometown pride."

"It was such a great experience to go through, especially with COVID," she recalled. "It was nice to be part of something so positive. It started out 100 percent word of mouth, and the next thing you know we're shipping all over the place."

**See Full Article Here:** <https://www.myrecordjournal.com/News/Meriden/Meriden-News/Puerto-Rican-Festival-canceled-but-mug-sales-allow-scholarships-to-continue.html>



# Chatter Goes Green!

By Suzanne Colley

Green efforts leading the way towards saving paper. “**Chatter**” was always a trendsetter – since 2014 prior issues were printed on 100% recycled paper. Now, starting with our last issue and going forward, CTM is transmitted electronically.



 **We are excited!**

You already know that paper is obtained from the pulp of wood. However, did you know, “In order to obtain one ton of paper, approximately seventeen (**17!**) fully-developed trees are required. Saving paper will reduce the number of trees required for paper production...” Flash Education [May 17, 2021]



**Be Mindful: Think GREEN before shopping!**  
**Do I really need it? Can I buy it used?**  
**How green is the product? Can I reuse it?**



## CLC’s Corporate Responsibility Team:

- Irena Baj-Wright
- Karen Chambrello
- Tara Chozet
- Suzanne Colley
- Annmarie Daigle
- Christopher Davis
- Pete Donahue
- Kendra Eckhart
- Bryan Figueroa
- Steve Fox
- John Gasparini
- Valerie Guglielmo
- Jodi Ganzer
- Rebecca Lambert
- Violetta Lukin
- Zuleika Mercado
- Nikki Nearing
- Lauren Perrotti
- Barbara Petano
- Robin Raboin
- Janet Rocco
- Greg Smith
- Linda Tarnowski
- Steve Wagner
- Mark Walerysiak
- Jeff Yue