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## **Hartford Teens Celebrate Rewarding Summer Employment Experiences**

Hartford, CT . . . Over 200 Hartford youth, between the ages of 16-24, celebrated their accomplishment of gainful summer employment coordinated through Career Services at Our Piece of the Pie® (OPP®). The celebration, including awards ceremony, was held on Friday, August 27, 2010 at The Good Shepherd Church in Hartford from 12-3 PM.

Youth worked this summer at various job sites, gaining important life and job proficiencies, including the development of a resume. There were 214 youth working for area businesses and organizations including TJ Maxx, Shop Rite, Hartford Fire Department and Aaron's, among many others.

“Summer Youth Employment placements provide the invaluable opportunity to acquire significant work and life skills,” says Bob Rath, OPP President/CEO. “It engages young people in a learning experience that is fun, educating them about teamwork and coming to work every day.”

This summer over 500 OPP youth were engaged in employment opportunities throughout the region.

Our Piece of the Pie is a youth development agency that helps youth, 14-24 years old, become successful adults. OPP programs and services allow young people to rise above economic and social barriers to reach the goals of attaining a degree from a 2 or 4-year college or vocational certification and/or meaningful employment in their chosen field.

The Summer Youth Employment program was funded by Capital Workforce Partners, the region's workforce investment board – *Developing Tomorrow's Workforce Today*.



*Youth and staff participate in activities, such as a dunk tank, flag football and volleyball, at the End-of-the-Summer Celebration for the over 200 youth that have successfully completed their Summer Youth Employment, funded by Capital Workforce Partners.*



*Youth gather to collect their portfolios which are created during their summer employment. The portfolio contains individually-developed resumes, cover letters, interview techniques and many other important pieces to their future employment success.*