



January 8, 2010

Contact: Steve Coates
(860)761-7342
Steve.coates@opp.org

Prasanthi Center of West Hartford Donates Care Packages To Help Hartford College Youth

HARTFORD, CT... Thanks to members of the Prasanthi Center of West Hartford, 119 college students from Our Piece of the Pie® (OPP) will receive care packages as they head back to class for the spring semester.

Some of the care packages were distributed during OPP's College Reunion/Annual Meeting at Capital Community College in Hartford Thursday night (January 7). At the event, OPP college youth met and mingled with friends of OPP, funders and Board members. The evening was highlighted by musical and theatrical performances by OPP youth.

More than 60 members of the Center, a non-denominational organization focused on providing community service to individuals, families, educational and other organizations, delivered the care packages to OPP's Sargeant Street Youth Center in Hartford on Tuesday (January 5).

Jatin DeSai, Executive Director of the Prasanthi Center and CEO of the DeSai Group, a consulting, learning, and research firm in West Hartford, organized the effort.

OPP, a leading youth development agency in Hartford, helps youth achieve economic independence by offering programs aimed at the long-term goals of a college degree or vocational certification and/or employment in the young person's chosen field.

The care packages, many assembled by college-aged members from the Center, contain some essential and some "creature comfort" items such as snacks, shampoo, soap, lip balm, and school supplies. Each package has a personalized hand-written greeting containing an inspirational quote from people such as Eleanor Roosevelt and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

“These care packages will give a huge emotional lift to our youth as they head back to school,” said OPP President/CEO. “Thanks to this caring effort by members of the Prasanthi Center, our youth will know someone is thinking about them,” Rath said.

“Being a college student myself, I know their needs,” said Shreena DeSai from the Prasanthi Center and a University of Connecticut freshman. “I feel blessed that we are able to give back.”

The Prasanthi Center, located at 207 Oakwood Avenue in West Hartford, also provides after-school, literacy, health, human values and parenting programs.



Jatin DeSai, Executive Director of the Prashanthi Center, OPP President/CEO Bob Rath , Shreena DeSai, and Heena Jaden

###