



CRIS AIR WAVES



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Audio Access for the Blind or Print-Challenged

Fall 2015

CRIS Expands Service to Museums

Thanks to CRIS volunteers and the American Savings Foundation, CRIS Radio and Mystic Aquarium, the state's largest tourist attraction, are offering visitors with low-vision or other print disabilities a new way to access print information displayed at the aquarium's exhibits.

The trademarked CRISAccess provides instant audio versions of print information displayed at the aquarium's exhibits and an audio description through a visitor's personal smart phone by scanning QR (Quick Response) Codes.

'We should celebrate this new program.'

Gov. Dannel M. Malloy

Stephen M. Coan, president and CEO of the Sea Research Foundation, which operates Mystic Aquarium, praised the program.

"This program offers more opportunities to our guests with disabilities, which were not previously available, thus introducing new approaches to learning about our ocean planet and creatures inhabiting various underwater environments," Coan said.

"This program is exemplary of the types of service that



Shelagh McClure (left) and Molly Cole of the Conn. Council on Developmental Disabilities, speak at the launch of CRISAccess.

make it possible for all our citizens to lead a good life—one full of all the activities and possibilities that other citizens experience," said Molly Cole, director of the Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Gov. Dannel M. Malloy hailed the collaboration. "Tourism in Connecticut is growing, and expanding opportunities and enhancing destinations for those with types of vision or print disabilities is important in ensuring that all citizens, including those with disabilities, are fully supported as valued, capable, and active members of our communities," Malloy said. "We should celebrate this new program."

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YOUR GENEROSITY SUPPORTS:

- ◆ CRIS Radio
- ◆ CRISKids for Schools
- ◆ CRISAccess (museums)
- ◆ CRIS Streaming
- ◆ CRIS On Demand
- ◆ CRIS Telephone Reader
- ◆ CRIS en Español

Please SIGN UP for Smile.Amazon.com. Select CRIS Radio as your designated charity and .5% of your purchase will be donated to CRIS by Amazon. THANK YOU!



AUDIBLE TOUR

Your Support Helps Launch First-of-its-Kind Service for Spanish Speakers With Disabilities

Private donations and funding from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving helped to launch the only Spanish-language streaming radio-reading service in the nation.

CRIS en Español Streaming offers an extensive line-up of audio versions of Spanish-language magazines – all featuring human narration -- for Spanish-speakers who are blind or have a print disability, including those with learning, physical, emotional or intellectual disabilities.

Annette Deonarine, Hispanic Initiative director of Advocacy Unlimited at Toivo Center, praised CRIS Radio's partnerships with Latino organizations. "This collaboration is essential to the people we serve in the Hispanic community. It will enable people who are



Annette Deonarine, Hispanic Initiative Director at Toivo hails CRIS en Español Streaming.

disabled to receive quality broadcasts that are culturally competent and in a language that is understood by many people from different Latino cultures."

'You don't know how wonderful [CRIS] is!'

Your gift has the power to improve the quality of lives of people who are blind or print-disabled.

Consider Audrey Putorek of New Britain, a long-time CRIS Radio listener. She was very excited about receiving a re-

placement CRIS Radio and wanted to share her enthusiasm about it.

"This radio is amazing," she told us. "I can listen to it all day long. I am so pleased."

"You don't know how wonderful this is," she emphasized. "I have been able to listen to the

Hartford Courant, New Britain Herald, and USA Today. She was also thrilled to hear what is on sale at Stop & Shop, Christmas Tree Shop and Ocean State Job lot.

"I am so, so happy. The reception is wonderful," she said. "I just wanted to thank you for continuing this wonderful service for us."

Special Recognitions ...

*Remembering
friends
&
family*

Thanks to the donations made in memory or in honor of friends or family, thousands of students and adults who are blind or print- challenged continue to receive CRIS services that include recordings of daily newspapers, store circulars and classroom materials. Your gifts help those with print challenges have access to the same print materials enjoyed by their classmates, friends, and family.

From July 1, 2015 through this fall, the following people were honored or remembered with donations made in their names. They are:

- Jim Battaglio
- Norma Dunn
- Ken Kaplan
- Tom Kriwacki
- Peter Hoffman
- Elizabeth Lewis
- Lou Morando
- Angela Scheuy
- Elizabeth Bonnie Sullivan
- George Weiss Associates

Donors Help CRIS Achieve Milestone at Assisted Living Facilities, Senior Centers

Your support along with funding from the North Central Area Agency on Aging and other foundations, has helped CRIS achieve a milestone with the installation of Internet radios into the common areas at more than 100 nursing homes, assisted living facilities and senior centers.

With the availability of Internet access at these facilities and lower-cost Internet radios, CRIS Radio is now available to more than 26,000 residents who are blind or print-challenged of these facilities.



Comcast Donates Production and Broadcast of CRISKids' PSAs

Comcast, a CRIS Radio community partner, donated the production and broadcast of 100 30-second public service announcements (PSA) about CRISKids for Schools.

CRISKids for Schools, audio versions of children's magazines and classroom print materials, was launched in the 2012-2013 school year. The program, geared for students who are blind or have learning disabilities, is used by 45 schools and after-school organizations to provide them with the same access to print materials enjoyed and provided to their classmates.

The PSA is being broadcast throughout Connecticut on Comcast channels through Nov. 26, an estimated in-kind value of \$15,500.



Emma, a Windsor Public Schools' student, is featured in a CRISKids PSA on Comcast channels, which also can be seen at crisradio.org

New Country Motor Cars, TV Celebrity Scot Haney and Local Businesses Make CRIS Golf Classic a Success

Special thanks to New Country Motor Cars of Hartford, title sponsor of CRIS Radio's Annual Golf Classic, Scot Haney, the popular WFSB meteorologist, and several local businesses, CRIS Radio's Annual Golf Classic was a success, raising nearly \$10,000. Haney was assisted by his WFSB colleague Eric Parker, morning news anchor. Devine Hydraulics, Fiondella, Milone and LaSarcina, Highland Market, Rome & McGuigan, and Windsor Federal Savings Bank were among the event sponsors. Other sponsors included: Wayne & Sharon Mulligan, Rabbett Insurance, Total Vision, Carter Cares and more than 40 businesses that donated auction and raffle items.



From left, Eric Parker, WFSB anchor, Joe Courtney, Tim Parker, vice president of New Country Motor Cars, and Scot Haney, WFSB meteorologist/co-host of Better Connecticut.

Save the Date

CRIS Radio's 6th Annual Dining & Dancing in the Dark

Saturday, April 16, 2016 * Bond Ballroom * Hartford