



CRIS Radio Air Waves

Fall/Winter 2013



Audio Services for the Blind or Print-Challenged

CRIS Wins \$10k From Tom's of Maine

The voting results are in! CRIS Radio won \$10,000 in November as part of the Tom's of Maine "50 States for Good" contest, thanks to our many supporters who voted online for CRIS. The contest highlights local nonprofits that address community needs and engage volunteers to get the work done.

More than 1,000 CRIS supporters voted each week in the month-long contest, helping CRIS rank No. 8 among 51 other nonprofits representing their states and the District of Columbia. Tom's is awarding \$10,000 to each of the top 15 vote-getters.



CRIS depends on nearly 350 dedicated volunteers, including those who provide their voice talent to record more than 70 newspapers and magazines. Our volunteers also record children's magazines and educational materials for students who are blind or print-challenged due to learning, physical, intellectual or emotional disabilities.

CRIS is the only radio-reading service in Connecticut and the only one in the nation to offer an extensive line-up of children's audio recordings, including text recommended in the Common Core State Standards. All CRIS recordings feature human narration.

"On behalf of all of our volunteers and especially our listeners, CRIS Radio is thrilled to be among the nation's top vote-getters that helped us win \$10,000 in much-needed funding," said Diane Weaver Dunne, executive director of CRIS Radio.

CRIS Expands Service To More Than 18,000

CRIS continues to significantly expand its service with the development of new programming initiatives. Thanks to the support CRIS receives from its donors and volunteers, audio access to articles featured in more than 70 newspapers and magazines, as well as educational materials, is made available to more than 18,000 people who are print-challenged.

The new programs include CRISKids™ For Schools, CRISAccess™ (museums), CRIS Streaming, and CRIS en Español. CRIS broadcasts can be heard on special CRIS Radios, Internet radios, any mobile device, or online at www.crisradio.org. Thanks to new technologies, particularly Internet radios, residents residing in 58 assisted living facilities and nursing homes now have access to CRIS programming 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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CRIS Thanks Its Volunteers

Nearly 70 volunteers attended CRIS Radio's Annual Volunteer Reception at the Governor's Mansion where they were recognized for their dedication and commitment.

Several volunteers celebrated special milestones at the reception, including Steve Parker, who marked 30 years as a CRIS volunteer.

Barbara Clark and Jim Stewart also were recognized for their long-time service to CRIS, both celebrating 25 years of service.

Russ Wheeler and Paul Young were recognized for 20 years of service and Jim Gadarowski, Sandra Lewis and Charles Wynn for 15 years.

Marking 10 years of service were: Christine Chadsey, Andrea Frez, James "Larry" Howard, Luane Lange, Jay Lentz and Jeff Watts.

Hal Baird, Susanne Casioppo, Ruth Foster, Jennifer Gaffey, Henry Gutterman, Earnest Johnson Jr., Susan Meers, Barbara Niccum, Barbara Rutz, Bill Rutz, and David Schoenewolff were honored for dedicating five years of service to CRIS.

CRIS volunteers provide a variety of services, including producing live news programs, packaging radios for listeners, and recording articles featured in newspapers, magazines, and educational materials. They dedicate an estimated 13,900 hours annually, valued at approximately \$392,000.



Photo/Steve Laschever

CRIS Radio volunteers were honored at the Governor's Mansion in Hartford. They include the following: row one, from left, Jennifer Gaffey and Christine Chadsey; row two: Russ Wheeler, Barbara Clark, Sandra Lewis, Paul Young, Jim Stewart, Steve Parker, Diane Weaver Dunne, CRIS executive director, Henry Gutterman, Andrea Frez and Jay Lentz; Row three; Ed Temple, Lou Morando; Stephanie Wheeler, Susan Babcock White, Sarah O'Hare, Stanley Zwirn and Christine Mabey; row four: Scott Baecker, CRIS operations director, Tom Grossi, Beth Bradley, Eleanor Thal, Mark Walker, Margaret Lawlor, Debbie Mallick Manente, and Chris Kelly; row six: John Davis, Michael Marino, Stephen Thal, Jim MacPherson, Keith Sullivan, CRIS program director, and Steve Lake.

Building A Legacy In Support of CRIS

Suzanne Heise knows a thing or two about fundraising and CRIS Radio. She joined CRIS as its grant consultant in 2010 after retiring from an 18-year career at Oak Hill as its vice president of development and communications. She and her husband Roger Maynard, a professional photographer, both donated their time as CRIS volunteers for various fundraising events as well.

Recently, Suzanne and Roger made an even bigger commitment to CRIS; they left a bequest in their wills to continue supporting CRIS.

"Having worked in fundraising for more than 20 years, I always felt strongly about including charities in my will," Heise said. "When Roger and I were revising our wills, we felt strongly about leaving a bequest to CRIS. We are both avid readers and know that if we were unable to read, we would be CRIS listeners. The information that CRIS makes available to people enables them to be more connected to their communities and the world. And the enormous strides they have made in the past few years have now opened up the joy of reading to children, and Spanish-speaking adults. We believe very strongly in CRIS' mission so we felt it was important to ensure they can continue inspiring people for years to come."

"Susan's experience and understanding add immeasurable strength to CRIS's mission," said William H. Austin, chairman of the CRIS Board of Directors. "She and Roger are exemplary leaders in our legacy efforts. It is an honor to work with them and thank them for their impact on the future."



Roger Maynard and Suzanne Heise.

New Haven Studio Named In Memory of Carol Gillispie

CRIS Radio's West Haven Studio was recently named in loving memory of CRIS board member Carol Gillispie.

Gillispie was both an avid listener and volunteer of CRIS Radio, serving as a long-time member on the CRIS Board of Directors. A rare form of eye cancer left her without sight as a toddler, but her condition led her to become an advocate for people with disabilities.

"Carol gave a voice to other people with disabilities. She truly was remarkable and didn't allow her disability to get in the way of her advocacy," said Diane Weaver Dunne, CRIS' executive director.

A commemorative plaque to be installed at the West Haven studio was presented to Carol's brother, Michael Esposito and her sister-in-law, Peggy Esposito, at CRIS Radio's annual meeting in September.



CRIS Board Chair William H. Austin, left, is pictured with Carol Gillispie's family, Peggy and Michael Esposito.

CRISKids™ Adds More Schools

More than 20 schools have signed up to participate in the CRISKids For Schools pilot as this unique program enters its second year. CRIS is the only service in the nation



offering an extensive line-up of audio versions featuring human narration of children's magazines, components of the Common Core State Standards and other educational materials requested by teachers to meet the needs of their print-challenged students.

Teachers download the recordings onto MP3 players. Emma, pictured at left holding an MP3 player, is a student at Clover Street School in Windsor.



Golf Classic Raises \$8,000

On a sweltering hot day in September, CRIS hosted its 16th Annual Golf Classic at the Manchester Country Club. Approximately 70 golfers and volunteers attended the event, helping CRIS raise more nearly \$8,000 with the help of the following event sponsors: Dominion, FML CPAs, Brian Devine, Metayer Bonding Associates, WFSB, Rabbett Insurance, and Windsor Federal. Scot Haney, WFSB meteorologist, emceed the event with the help of his WFSB colleague, morning anchor Eric Parker.

Pictured at right is FML's foursome. They are, from left, Brian Kelleher, Matt Soroko, Dave Lewis and Joanne Purtell.



Save The Date

Dining & Dancing in the Dark

Saturday, April 26, 2014 * The Bond, Hartford, Conn.