



CRIS AIR WAVES



Audio Access for the Blind or Print-Challenged

Spring/Summer 2016

Donors Help CRIS Achieve Milestone

Your generosity has helped CRIS Radio achieve an important milestone; we now make our service available to more than 50,000 people who are blind or print-disabled.

Donors like you — including those donating through CRIS Radio’s GoFundMe campaign — help keep people like Tom Grossi connected to the world around them.

Consider Tom’s words, who has been a CRIS listener for 35 years. “The biggest difference CRIS has made in my life is that it keeps me from being isolated, enhances my knowledge and independence and empowers me,” Tom said. “By keeping me informed on local to national events, I am able to converse with people on a wide range of topics and it opens up the world to me.”

On behalf of Tom and other CRIS listeners, staff, volunteers and Board of Directors, we thank you!



Photo/Steve Laschever
Tom Grossi with Suzanne Heise, CRIS volunteer and grant writer.

CRIS Improves, Expands Online Service

Thanks to a Hartford Foundation for Public Giving grant, CRIS has improved online access for people with disabilities. The HFPG funding made it possible for CRIS to develop an online search engine of our extensive audio library, redesign our Web site to improve accessibility, and develop free mobile apps for any Android or Apple smartphone or tablet. The mobile apps make it possible to listen to CRIS Radio live broadcasts or archived podcasts anywhere, anytime. The apps can be downloaded at Google Play (Androids) and the App Store (Apple).

CRIS Radio

Now Playing
Tuesday, 11:30 AM
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Add to Favorite

Next
Tuesday, 12:00 PM
News Update

My Favorites

Program Schedule

CRIS Library

Buy Subscription

CRIS

315 Windsor Ave.
Windsor, CT 06095

www.crisradio.org
info@crisradio.org

P: 860-527-8000
F: 860-727-9581

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YOUR GENEROSITY SUPPORTS:

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

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!

Sold-Out: Dining & Dancing in the Dark

Local celebrities, including **Scot Haney**, WFSB meteorologist and co-host of Better Connecticut, turned out in force to help raise money for CRIS Radio at its annual gala, Dining & Dancing in the Dark.

Nicole Nalepa, WFSB traffic reporter, took home the CRIS Radio Mirror Ball Trophy on April 16 when she competed in CRIS Radio's own version of the ABC hit show "Dancing with the Stars" at the gala, held at the Bond Ballroom in Hartford.

The ballroom dance performances of two CRIS volunteers, Diane Duhaime and Steve Famiglietti, who also are CRIS



Photos/Steve Laschever

Local celebrities dance for CRIS Radio.



Left, Diane Duhaime performs with Borney Mastarreno; Steve Famiglietti performs with dance partner Sally Nasatka.

Jay Harris and **Jaymee Sire**; former Mrs. Connecticut and star of Bravo's reality TV show "Game of Crowns" **Vanessa Sebastian**; and actress and restaurant owner **Luz Ramos**, who has appeared in Bob's Discount Furniture commercials, also owns the Sloppy Waffle restaurant in Newington.

Haney emceed the event and was also the title sponsor with his personal donation of \$5,000, which was matched by his employer Meredith Corp.

Plans are underway for next year's Dining & Dancing in the Dark gala, which will feature Scot Haney as both emcee and dance contestant.

listeners, were among the highlights of the gala. Arthur Murray Dance Studio professionals donated the lessons. Other competitors included: radio personality **AJ**, co-host of Chaz & AJ in the Morning on Hartford's 102.9 the Whale and WPLR in New Haven; ESPN SportsCenter anchors



Celebrity judges, from left, are: Heather Leyden, competitive ballroom dancer / instructor; Joe Furey, Fox 61 meteorologist; and Mary Ellen Fillo, journalist; with event emcee Scot Haney, (standing) WFSB meteorologist.

Special Recognitions ...

Remembering
friends
&
family

Your donations made in memory or in honor of friends or family support CRIS services for thousands of adults and students who are blind or print-challenged, helping them have access to the same print materials enjoyed by their friends, family, colleagues and classmates. Since July 1, 2015, the following people were honored or remembered with donations made in their names:

- Trevor Attenberg
- Jim Battaglio
- Donna Brayfield
- Daniel Carnot
- Lucile L. Darcy
- Norma Dunn
- Monica Euvrard
- Cecelia Mary Falotico
- Barbara Freitag
- Margaret Jackson Gibbs
- Carol Gillispie
- Ken Kaplan
- Dwayne Kertanus
- Tom Kriwacki
- George Halpin
- Hartford Hospital Eye Surgery Center—Newington
- Nancy Daniele-Hoffman
- Peter Hoffman
- Dick Hurley
- Anthony Masciangioli
- Ray Kelly
- Naomi Levine
- Elizabeth Lewis
- Roger Maynard
- Lou Morando
- Joseph Raimondo
- Angela Scheuy
- Louise Sgroi
- Domenic Sorrentino
- Michael Sorrentino
- James Stewart
- Elizabeth Bonnie Sullivan
- George Weiss Associates

In a CRIS Listener's Own Words:

'Once upon a time, there was world without CRIS!'

Your support keeps listeners like Barbara Blejewski informed. Barbara appealed to the state legislature this winter, asking lawmakers to reinstate funding to CRIS.

She wrote, "Once upon a time, there was a world without CRIS. How well I remember the dark ages. The age of enlightenment dawned ... when CRIS Radio began broadcasting."

Barbara credits a CRIS employment program for helping her obtain her first two jobs and enhance her independence.

"What happens in a world without CRIS?" she asks. "We return to the dark ages."

Comcast, SCSU Celebrates CRISKids at Kennelly School

CRIS partners Comcast and Southern Conn. State University recently celebrated CRISKids at Kennelly School in Hartford.

CRISKids provides audio versions of children's magazines and classroom print materials featuring human narration, thanks to the dedication of CRIS volunteers. CRISKids is the only service in the nation with a dedicated stream featuring an extensive line-up of children's magazines for students who are blind or have learning disabilities.

At the reception, Comcast presented CRIS with a \$3,000 grant and an in-kind donation of 100 30-second public service announcements about CRISKids on its Connecticut cable channels. Results from a preliminary study, conducted by SCSU, were shared by Michael Ben-Avie and Regine Randall.



Students and teachers at Hartford's Kennelly School at a reception recognizing CRISKids.

New Venue: CRIS Golf Classic Moves to Tunxis Golf Club

CRIS is moving its annual golf classic to Tunxis Golf Club in Farmington. It will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 5.

New Country Motor Cars of Hartford signed on for a second year as the event's title sponsor. Scot Haney, WFSB meteorologist and co-host of Better Connecticut, will make his 7th repeat appearance as the event's emcee.



Photo: Steve Laschever
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.

The player fee of \$160 includes 18 holes of golf and a player cart, lunch on the green with complimentary beverages, including beer, and a buffet dinner in the club's pavilion featuring a live auction. Registrations and sponsorships are currently being accepted. For more information, please call CRIS Radio at 860-527-8000 or visit crisradio.org.

Save the Dates

CRIS Volunteer Reception * Tues., Sept. 20
Governor's Mansion * Hartford

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19th Annual CRIS Radio Golf Classic * Wed., Oct. 5
Tunxis Golf Club * Farmington

~
7th Annual Dining & Dancing in the Dark * Sat., April 29, 2017
Bond Ballroom * Hartford