



*Audio Access For People Who Are
Blind or Print-Challenged*

NEWS RELEASE

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Community Foundation of Middlesex County Grant Award Supports CRIS Radio

CRIS Radio (Connecticut Radio Information System) is pleased to announce it has received a \$1,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County (CFMC). CRIS Radio will use these funds to support its broadcasts of audio versions of articles published in 50 newspapers and magazines.

A 39-year-old nonprofit based in Windsor, Conn. with six regional studios located statewide, CRIS Radio is the only radio-reading service in Connecticut for people who are blind or unable to read due to a disability. Funding from CFMC will help CRIS make its broadcasts available to more than 800 Middlesex County residents.

CFMC funding helps to fund CRIS Radio's distribution of free, specially tuned radios to individuals with print disabilities in Middlesex County. The grant award also helps CRIS Radio make its broadcasts available to six nursing homes and/or assisted living facilities in Middlesex County. Those facilities include: Autumn Lakes of Cromwell; Covenant Village of Cromwell; Appel Rehab in Middletown; Chesterfields Health Care Center (Apple Rehab) in Chester; Apple Rehab in Old Saybrook; and Gladeview Health Care Center in Old Saybrook.

In addition to its service in Middlesex County, CRIS Radio streams its broadcasts to each patient room at Saint Francis Hospital in Hartford. For students with reading challenges, CRIS Radio records classroom materials and streams children's magazines to Connecticut Children's Medical Center. CRIS Radio also produces audible tours for museums to improve access within the community for people unable to read, and streams a dedicated audio line-up of Spanish-language newspapers and magazines.

CRIS volunteers provide the human narration for all CRIS-produced recordings.

Applications for the free service can be downloaded from the CRIS Radio web site, www.crisradio.org.

Since its founding in 1997, the Community Foundation of Middlesex County has provided 1,815 grants totaling more than \$5.4 million to organizations for the arts, cultural and heritage programs, educational activities, environmental improvements, and for health and human services. For more information, contact the Community Foundation at 860.347.0025 or info@MiddlesexCountyCF.org.

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