



## PRESS RELEASE

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### COMMUNITY YOUTH GIVE BACK ON NATIONAL SERVICE DAY

Stamford, CT/ Hundreds of youth from a variety of Domus programs will participate in the nation's first **September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance** by conducting several community service projects around Stamford.

Students from Stamford Academy Charter High School will write and illustrate children's books; clean up Cove Beach, Mill River Park, and Scalzi Park; and read to young children. The students are partnering with Keep Stamford Beautiful, Child Care Learning Centers, Bartlett Arboretum, Stamford Museum and Nature Center, and St. Luke's X-Change Store. Other Domus youth will be conducting clean-ups around the city.

While the service project has been in development prior to the September 8, 2009, incident at Stamford Academy, it has taken on additional significance since then as students strive to focus on the positive contributions they make to their families and the community.

Eighteen-year-old student Maria Perez stated, "Community service happens all the time at Stamford Academy—we do things every year. We've gone to New Orleans to help with the Hurricane Katrina clean-up and Boston to help the homeless. We know we have to give back to the community." She also noted that sometimes "people think we're the students who are troublemakers or are bad kids, and yes, many of us have made mistakes, but everyone messes up. We ask that people also acknowledge that we are able to be and want to be good citizens."

Domus Executive Director Mike Duggan said, "These young people have made mistakes—just like every adult and child I know—and are working hard to improve their lives. We hold them responsible when they make bad choices, and we celebrate the good deeds they do." Duggan also said that "If we expect a young person to turn his life around, we as a community have to be part of the solution. We don't do that by writing them off the second they falter."

#### **ABOUT DOMUS:**

Domus helps over 600 children and their families experience academic and life success through a variety of educational, residential, and community programs. Domus ensures that the children in its care meet their full potential by building loving, trusting relationships in structured, respectful environments. The Domus vision: *No child shall be denied hope, love, or a fair chance in life.* [www.domuskids.org](http://www.domuskids.org)

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