



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### CONNECTIONS HOSTS QUAKER HILL NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP

*Local volunteers, residents of Connections' housing programs, and Connections staff come together to plant flowers, pick up litter, and beautify neighborhood*

Wilmington, DE— With summer rapidly approaching, residents of Connections Community Support Programs, Inc.'s housing programs noticed a swell in litter on the streets where they live in downtown Wilmington. In response to the increase in trash along these city streets, Connections organized a neighborhood clean-up on May 22 in the heart of the Quaker Hill community, with the goal of making this neighborhood a clean and beautiful place to live.



Volunteers helped clean up the Quaker Hill neighborhood on May 22, 2010.

Area volunteers, Connections' consumers, and Connections' staff gathered this past Saturday and split off into teams to tackle different parts of the neighborhood, picking up litter throughout the community. By the end of the clean-up, volunteers had filled eight trash cans with garbage, making a huge step towards the goal of a clean community. Other teams planted annuals donated by Costco in large, colorful planters outside of Connections' housing programs, using soil that was donated by Action Hardware. The planters, donated by Home Depot, now add a splash of color and vitality to the neighborhood. After the work was done, volunteers, Connections' residents and employees shared lunch, donated by ShopRite of Christina Crossing, on the porch of one of Connections' apartment buildings.

"This clean-up was a great opportunity, not only to beautify the Quaker Hill area, but for Connections' residents to feel a sense of investment in their community," says Cathy McKay, President and CEO of Connections. "Some of the individuals we serve feel disconnected from their communities. This was a great opportunity for them to feel a sense of pride in their community by actively contributing to making the Quaker Hill neighborhood a cleaner place to live," she adds.

Connections has been providing community-based housing and support services to poor and homeless individuals and families in the state of Delaware since 1985. Through our housing and support services, we will serve more than 9,000 people in 2010 at more than 40 locations throughout Delaware, including New Castle, Kent, and Sussex Counties. Connections is the largest provider of housing for persons with incomes at or below 30% of area median and special needs in Delaware, owning and operating more than 500 units, and we will provide more than 180,000 nights of safe, affordable housing this year.

*Connections Community Support Programs, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has been providing community-based housing and support services to poor and homeless individuals and families in the state of Delaware since 1985. The mission of Connections is to improve the lives of vulnerable and disenfranchised Delaware residents by providing a comprehensive array of affordable and accessible primary medical, mental health and substance abuse treatment, employment, and housing opportunities to help them become accepted and productive members of their communities. In 2010, Connections will serve more than 9,000 unduplicated individuals in 40 locations throughout Delaware, including New Castle, Kent, and Sussex Counties, and will provide more than 180,000 nights of safe, affordable housing.*



Connections' consumers and staff helped plant annuals in decorative planters during the Quaker Hill Neighborhood Clean-Up.