

February 24, 2011  
**Section:** School  
**Page:** 6C

## Students check out area opportunities

**Darien** High School and the **Community Fund of Darien** co-sponsored the seventh annual Volunteer Fair at the school on Friday, Feb. 4. Agencies and organizations from the **Darien** and surrounding **community** came for three hours and promoted volunteering opportunities at their organizations for **Darien** young adults.

Throughout the morning, the fair was attended by more than 700 students.

Parents and **community** members also visited.

More than 45 agencies and school service clubs set up displays and invited students to sign up for various projects and programs. Some **of** the organizations included Norwalk Grassroots Tennis, Family Centers, Literacy Volunteers, STAR, Lighting the Way, **Darien** Land Trust and the Maritime Aquarium.

Opportunities ranged from one-day events to regular ongoing commitments, such as helping children in an after-school program, organizing and conducting food and clothing drives, snow shoveling or outdoor clean up, office or clerical work, fundraising or serving as museum guides.

The students received a hand-out with a listing **of** all organizations from The **Community Fund**.

T-shirts were provided to the students sponsored by Colangelo; **Darien** Rowayton Bank; Dr.

Osherow DDS; the Daily **Darien**; MSG Varsity; Upper Crust Bakery & Café Burgers, Shakes and Fries; Equinox; and Vernal's Service Center as their "thank you" for volunteering.

"We are very grateful to the administration and staff **of** the **Darien** High School for their commitment to voluntarism as demonstrated in their sponsorship and support **of** this special annual event," Kiki Karpen, the **Community Fund** executive director said. "Together we are educating students about the importance and value **of** volunteering, raising awareness **of** many **community** agencies and their services, facilitating relationships, and fostering lifelong commitments to **community** service.

Ultimately, through this effort, we are helping to build stronger, healthier **communities** for years to come." More info: Visit the DHS Volunteer Center, [volunteerdhs@gmail.com](mailto:volunteerdhs@gmail.com), 203-655-8775  
Above, Kate Ferguson signs up students for the Youth Asset Team. At left, Annie Roberts introduces students to Teen Peace Works, a program **of** the Domestic Violence Crisis Center

B-I-N-G-O - Holmes School families and friends recently enjoyed an evening **of** fun at the school playing bingo and other entertaining games. First grader Ellie Mueller with her father Mike Mueller and sister Lindy wait for principal Gerry Petrizzi to call out the winning numbers.

LOVE TO SING - The annual kindergarten Valentine's Share at Holmes School featured children decked out in their best red, white and pink singing songs **of** love for their family and friends. The program is coordinated by music teachers Sophie Kozlowski and Ruth Lettera