

## 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL "TURKEY AND A TWENTY" DRIVE

Diggs Construction, LLC, Program Manager for the City of Hartford's billion dollar school rebuilding initiative is pleased to announce that its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual *Turkey and a Twenty* Drive was a huge success. Diggs Construction, LLC, partnered with greater Hartford's regional food bank (Foodshare) to assist Hartford families in need of food for Thanksgiving and throughout the year. Coined "A Turkey and a Twenty," Foodshare established this campaign almost ten years ago as a fun way to encourage participants to donate both food and funds. Diggs Construction's Annual *Turkey and a Twenty* Drive began in 2007 when less than one week before Thanksgiving, CT News 30 announced that Foodshare was 8,500 turkeys short of their goal in order to feed hungry Hartford families for the Thanksgiving holiday. In a few short days, Diggs Construction raised \$620 and collected 29 turkeys. In 2008, the company raised \$1,325 and collected 32 turkeys.

In 2009 Diggs Construction, LLC, continued its commitment to helping Foodshare obtain its goal. And with help from colleagues, employees, friends, and families we exceeded our previous goal and raised over \$2,800 in donations. Every dollar counts and donating just one dollar can feed a person for an entire day. Joseph DeSanti, Director of Diggs Hartford Office said, "It's important to give back to the community, especially during these difficult times. We are proud of the dedication and commitment we have received from our employees and colleagues in order to help meet the needs of the community. It's great to know that a donation of any size can make such an impact on a person's life."

### DIGGS CONSTRUCTION WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR 2009 DRIVE DONORS



## DIGGS CONSTRUCTION, LLC AWARDED UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE CENTER PROJECT IN DODGE CITY, KANSAS

The United States Army Corps of Engineers awarded Diggs Construction, LLC with the US Army Reserve Center project in Dodge City, Kansas. The 32,000 square foot facility will consist of two separate buildings, a 22,000 square foot reserve center space, and a 10,000 square foot maintenance space. This \$8.3 million project is scheduled to conclude in January 2011. Darrell Harris, who joined Diggs from Atlanta, GA, will serve as the Project Manager for this General Contracting award.

## NEW FACES AT DIGGS



Darrell M. Harris joined the Diggs Team in September 2009. Darrell attended and graduated from Georgia State University with a B.S. in Community Planning and Development. With over 25 years of experience in the construction industry, Darrell has functioned as an owner's representative, consultant, and general contractor. Additional certifications include USACE, OSHA (Level 30), and NAVFAC.

## DIGGS IN THE COMMUNITY

During the week, Darian Coleman is a part of our Diggs Construction Team in Connecticut, however on Sundays, Darian coaches a team called "The Lakers." Darian has been a sponsor for the Juan Castillo Spanish League for the past two years, but this year he decided to get closer to the court. Darian is the proud coach of 9 basketball players in the South end of Hartford. The Lakers are one of approximately 20 teams within the league. The league consists of overseas athletes who need to maintain their skills during the off season, college basketball players, students, and local adults. Multiple scouts attend the games, which is important to the students. They play and wait for their skills to be noticed and hope for the opportunity to further their education while playing on a college basketball team. Darian states, "It's great to have something positive in the community for the inner city teens and adults to get involved in."

### *Our Mission:*

*Diggs Construction partners with its clients by providing professional construction services that form a relationship built on trust and teamwork, which results in successful projects.*

## **"SCHOOL PRIDE STARTS HERE" ON HARTFORD PUBLIC ACCESS TELEVISION**

Diggs Construction, LLC released the first episode of "School Pride Starts Here," a series dedicated to exploring Hartford's Historic Construction Program. The first of several episodes on Hartford Public Access Television, Channel 95, aired on Tuesday, November 3, 2009. With the help of J. Stan McCauley of Light Source Productions, "School Pride Starts Here" was created to inform the public about the Hartford Public Schools Construction Program. As stated by Host Derrick Diggs, Director of Business Development for Diggs Construction, "Many people understand that there's a school construction program in Hartford, but few have seen the buildings, and even fewer understand how they are built."

This first episode focused on the Richard J. Kinsella Magnet School of the Performing Arts, and featured by two dance teachers at Kinsella, Ms. Deanna Russo and Ms. Ingrid Rogelstad-Howe, the Superintendent of Hartford Public Schools, Dr. Steve J. Adamowski, and Principal Pamela Totten-Alvarado. Special guest Joseph DeSanti of Diggs Construction, and Program Director of the Hartford Public Schools Construction Program, discusses the responsibilities of a Program Manager and describes the construction process that takes place before, during, and after a building is built.

New episodes to come. To watch the full episode please visit: [www.accessstv.org/PVN/portal\\_05/P5\\_Episode\\_01.html](http://www.accessstv.org/PVN/portal_05/P5_Episode_01.html)

## **HARTFORD CELEBRATES TWO RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONIES**

### **UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING**

*Hartford, CT*



Diggs Construction, LLC the honored Program Manager for the Hartford School Construction Program, along with faculty, distinguished guests, project participants and the community joined together to attend the ribbon cutting dedication ceremony of University High School of Science and Engineering (UHSSE) at noon on September 11, 2009. The 85,000 square foot building, designed by JCJ Architecture, became the educational home to approximately 400 students when it officially opened for the 2009-2010 school year on August 31, 2009. The Pike Company of Rochester, N.Y. was the Construction Manager for the \$41.6 million UHSSE project.

Walter Harrison, President of University of Hartford, and Eric Rice, Principal of UHSSE, initiated the ceremony with a welcome speech for the attendees. Further remarks were given by, President of UHSSE National Honor Society, Joseph I. Lieberman U.S. Senator of CT, Mayor Eddie Perez of Hartford, Superintendent of Hartford Secondary Schools Joan Massey, Chair of Hartford Board of Education Ada Miranda, and UHSSE Senior Class President Tim Nicholson.

UHSSE is located on the University of Hartford's campus which supports the collegiate design and theme to encourage students to pursue higher education and study all fields related to science, engineering, and technology. A major benefit that was produced through the partnership of University of Hartford and Hartford Public Schools is that qualified students can take college courses at the University of Hartford.

Brief tours of the new school were offered at the completion of the ceremony. Many attendees took the opportunity to walk through the school's concourse, and special engineering and science labs that are designed more around a collegiate design rather than the traditional high school lab setting. Classrooms, exhibit and lecture spaces, and the gymnasium were also highlighted during the tour.

### **RICHARD J. KINSELLA MAGNET SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS**

*Hartford, CT*



Students, faculty, project participants and distinguished guests gathered to officially introduce Richard J. Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts (Kinsella) to the community on Friday, September 25, 2009. Program Manager for the Hartford School Construction Program, Diggs Construction, LLC was honored to attend and proud to share the beautifully completed Kinsella project. The event began at 9:00AM outside at the new entrance with remarks offered by Eddie Duran, Artistic Director; Pamela Totten-Alvarado, Principal; and Steven J. Adamowski, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools.

The Richard J. Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts is a unique school that provides all students the opportunity to develop their skills through the performing arts. This philosophy integrates comprehensive training, cultural exposure and arts integration as a means to develop a child socially, linguistically, and cognitively through a broad variety of hands-on experiences.

Principal Totten-Alvarado used to play the piano and was sensitive to the positive response that she saw from the children during performing arts type activities and lessons. Her vision was made a reality as part of the Hartford School Building Committee (HSBC) Construction Program. In 2007, Downes Construction Company (Downes) broke ground on the project and in August of this year (2009) completed the 64,000 square foot renovation along with the 41,187 square foot addition.

Fletcher-Thompson Architects, the designers awarded the project in 2006, created the design plan for the school with several programmatic features revolving around the theme of performing arts, such as: two auditoriums, a black box theater, two dance studios, a stagecraft room, a violin and string instrumental instructional room, and a multi-purpose room called the "white box." In addition to the traditional classroom space, Kinsella also has choral and band rooms, and an electronic music room where students can either practice with traditional instruments or construct digital music compositions.

"We love the new facility!" proclaimed Principal Totten-Alvarado. "It's like no other in the State. The response from the community, parents, and kids has been huge and positive. It is tremendous. The kids are excited!"