

PRESS RELEASE – SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

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President and CEO of The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport to run Steamtown Marathon October 9th ~ Goal of Raising \$20 K to Support the vital work of The Council of Churches

The marathon course drops 922 feet in elevation on a route meandering through picturesque scenery from Forest City to downtown Scranton PA. *Runners World* magazine named Steamtown one of the top ten marathons in the nation last year. Blogging about his experience (www.ccgb.org and go to the blog link) Bodt observes, “*I know I won’t be alone on race day.*” As the President and CEO of The Council of Churches, Bodt leads an organization that was founded just after WWII as an ecumenical and social service agency whose mission is “*to turn faith into action...to help people at risk meet their urgent needs.*”

Five major programs accomplish this mission. The after school program *Project Learn*, the intervention services of *Janus Center for Youth in Crisis*, and prison-to-work re-entry service of *CO-OP Center* all reach special needs populations. The Hunger Outreach Network provides financial and technical assistance to 37 area feeding programs and the Bridge Building Ministry provides opportunities for conversations about faith and community issues such as race, poverty, education, housing and interfaith understanding.

Bodt knows that while his race will only last hours, those he serves are racing for their lives to improve their conditions and family situations. “*I consider it a privilege to serve at the helm of such a great organization. We are doing what each member congregation would do if they were able—together we accomplish so much more than any one church can by itself.*” Bodt continued, “*I won’t set any running records, but if I can raise money for a great cause and raise awareness about The CCGB and its work here in southwestern Connecticut, then I will have run a great race.*” Follow Brian’s blog at <http://www.thecouncilofchurches.blogspot.com>.

Current gifts have already gotten Brian three-quarters of the way to his fundraising goal. To help propel him forward across the finish line, sponsor gifts can be in the form of checks or money orders payable to CCGB and mailed to: The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport, 1100 Boston Ave., Bldg. 5A, Bridgeport, CT 06610 or visit www.ccgb.org to make on-line gifts using “Justgive.org.” Call 203 334-1121 x 243 for more information.