

# TOWN OF VERNON

## Office of the Mayor

14 Park Place • Vernon, CT 06066

Tel: (860) 870-3600 • Fax: (860) 870-3580

[www.Vernon-CT.gov](http://www.Vernon-CT.gov)



**Daniel A. Champagne**  
*Mayor*

**Michael J. Purcaro**  
*Town Administrator*

**Dawn R. Maselek**  
*Assistant Town Administrator*

### MEDIA ADVISORY – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### Press Contact:

David Owens, Communications Specialist  
Town of Vernon  
Desk (860) 870-3574  
Cell (860) 494-5973

Rene Lambert, Executive Director  
Opportunity Works Connecticut  
860-454-4016, Ext. 101  
Email: [rlambert@owct.org](mailto:rlambert@owct.org)

## Tax Credits Available for Businesses that Donate to Vernon Non-Profit Opportunity Works Connecticut

**(VERNON, Connecticut)** – Opportunity Works Connecticut, a Vernon-based non-profit that supports people with intellectual and physical disabilities, has been approved for the 2022 Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act Grant Program, which allows the group to receive cash grants from businesses in exchange for tax credits.

Opportunity Works is seeking to raise \$63,000 for replacement of its heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. Businesses that contribute a minimum of \$250 are eligible for a tax credit valued at up to 100 percent of the donation amount.

“Opportunity Works provides meaningful opportunities to our friends, neighbors and relatives who benefit from its services,” Vernon Mayor Dan Champagne said. “The Neighborhood Assistance Act, as its name implies, is a great opportunity for businesses to help local non-profits make a difference and receive a generous tax benefit for their charitable giving.”

Opportunity Works endeavors to foster a sense of respect and dignity, which enables individuals to have greater participation in the services the organization offers, said Rene Lambert, the executive director and co-founder of Opportunity Works.

“We are expanding the services we offer and expanding our office space, which is what brought about our need to upgrade our HVAC systems,” Lambert said. “The existing HVAC systems are 45 to 50 years old and some do not work. This project will ensure our clients and staff can work in an environment that is comfortable.”

To contribute to the Opportunity Works project, please visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/DRS/Connecticut-Neighborhood-Assistance-Act-Form>. **Donations must be made via the linked form between September 15<sup>th</sup> and October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022.**

The organization's Neighborhood Assistance Act proposal was facilitated by Matt Hellman, Vernon's Social Services Director, and brought forward to the Town Council by Mayor Champagne. The Council unanimously approved the request after a public hearing.

"The Neighborhood Assistance Act gives businesses an opportunity to make monetary contributions to worthy non-profits and then receive a generous tax credit," Hellman said. "The program is good for everybody involved."

The Vernon Social Services Department locally coordinates the Neighborhood Assistance Act application for non-profits.

For more information about Opportunity Works Connecticut, please visit: <https://www.owct.org/>

For more information about the Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program, please visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/DRS/Credit-Programs/Neighborhood-Assistance/Neighborhood-Assistance-Act-Tax-Credit-Program>

### **About the Town of Vernon**

The Town of Vernon is a celebrated place to live, work and visit. From its beautiful parks and lakes, to its vast trails and historic homes and buildings, Vernon is a resilient and thriving community that promotes the health and wellbeing of its residents and values the natural environment. With a resident population of more than 30,000 and occupying 18.03 square miles, Vernon combines a balanced appreciation of history, and a strong economic base for growth, both residential and commercial. Located 15 minutes east of the Connecticut capital of Hartford, and 25 miles from the City of Springfield, Massachusetts, the Town of Vernon is strategically located in "New England's Knowledge Corridor" with close proximity to some of the top colleges and universities in the country.

Designated a certified Sustainable Community, the Town of Vernon offers a wide range of benefits and services to its residents. The Town of Vernon is a full-service municipality that practices a management philosophy of continuous quality improvement. To learn more about the Town of Vernon, please call (860) 870- 3670 or visit [www.vernon-ct.gov](http://www.vernon-ct.gov).

### **About Opportunity Works Connecticut**

Opportunity Works Connecticut has a large service area and works with individuals in most of eastern Connecticut and as far west as Bloomfield, West Hartford, New Britain, Newington and Cromwell. The organization is based in the Rockville section of Vernon, where it offers a variety of services and programs, including vocational skills training, individual employment support, culinary classes, health and wellness training, music therapy, recreation opportunities, community engagement and a bowling league. It also operates a store where people can purchase items produced in the group's wood shop, greeting cards, jewelry and other crafts produced by participants. Opportunity Works also offers services, including bottle redemption and document shredding.

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