



For Immediate Release  
March 31, 2005

Contact: Rie Poirier-Campbell  
(860) 525-8629 ext 237

## **“Letters from Prison” exhibition at Clare Gallery**

*Hartford* — The Community Partners in Action Prison Arts Program will present its “Letters from Prison” exhibition at the Clare Gallery in downtown Hartford from May 5 through June 5. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the group will offer a panel discussion on Thursday, May 5, at 6 p.m., in the gallery. The panel will include the program director, a Prison Arts Program teacher, and a former inmate.

“Letters from Prison” is a powerful exhibition of works by inmates in Connecticut’s correctional facilities. Letters to family and friends, as well as open letters to the community will be on display, along with stunning artwork the prisoners drew on the letters’ envelopes. The works are often quite intricate and thought-provoking. Half of the letters will be from 1995, and the other half from this year.

The exhibition is part of the 27<sup>th</sup> annual display of work from artists in Connecticut’s prisons. It is organized by the Prison Arts Program, which promotes self-examination and self-esteem in Connecticut inmates through participation in classes, exhibitions and publications, and brings the talent and creativity of the prison population to the community at large.

The Clare Gallery is housed in the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry at 285 Church Street. The Center is part of St. Patrick – St. Anthony Church, a vibrant and active downtown faith community. The Gallery’s hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays; Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. The Gallery and all related events are free and open to the public. Free parking is available directly across from the church. The facility is handicapped accessible. More information may be found on the church’s website at [stpatrick-stanthony.org](http://stpatrick-stanthony.org).

###