



Always Home

PREVENTING
FAMILY
HOMELESSNESS

Formerly Mystic Area Shelter & Hospitality Inc.

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Gala Raises Record Amount

Always Home raised a record-breaking \$147,500 at its May 11th gala, Rock and Soul Fantasy. More than 200 guests filled the Hard Rock Café at Foxwoods Resort Casino in support of Always Home's mission to Prevent Family Homelessness. Olde Mistick Village's Joyce Olson Resnikoff was this year's honoree, in recognition of her generous community philanthropy.

At the gala, Jeff Anderson, Always Home's Executive Director, announced that Resnikoff has pledged \$25,000 to the organization in support of its work preventing the homelessness of single, working mothers and their families. Annually, female-headed households account for 65-70% of Always Home's total client caseload.

Summer 2018

Wheels to Work Gains Traction



Life is about perspective. Monique is a glass-half-full woman with a positive attitude and a warm smile. In spite of the many challenges she faces, she sees each day as a blessing.

As the single mother of two boys with severe disabilities, however, Monique's life is anything but easy. Tyler, age 11, has Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) coupled with a sensory processing disorder that limits his capacity to learn and function. Tevin, age 7, was diagnosed with neurofibromatosis, a genetic condition that has impacted his ability to walk. He wears a leg brace and uses a walker to get around.

Monique, a graduate of UCONN, kept everything together for many years until costly medical expenses associated with the boys' care caused her to fall behind on her rent, well beyond the point of catching up. When she turned to Always Home, she was staying with family while she searched for a handicapped accessible apartment she could afford. Because she didn't own a car, her options were limited. (cont. on page 2)



Message from Executive Director

"We need to help this woman," said David Cruthers, Always Home's Transportation Coordinator. Without transportation, families struggle to get to work, earn an income, pay the rent and maintain a stable home for their children. Car donations are usually the means by which Always Home provides client families with cars. But after giving away two donated vehicles in April, our lot was empty in May. That didn't stop Always Home.

Through the generosity of local foundations and individuals who support our work, Always Home was able to purchase for Monique a used Ford Fusion from Valenti State Line Motors in Pawcatuck. Owner Rob Valenti and General Manager Sean McGill have been committed supporters of Always Home's Wheels to Work program from its inception, providing free mechanical inspections of every donated car. Cars that do not meet their exacting road safety standards are auctioned off by Valenti. All proceeds are returned to Always Home and help fund other Wheels to Work transportation assistance including car repairs, gas cards, bus passes and taxi fares.

Receiving a car from Always Home has changed Monique and her family's life. In her own words, "I just can't believe that this just actually happened today! Both of my sons, Tyler and Tevin are so happy which just makes me happy to see them happy; I should really say we are overjoyed. They are just as excited about the car as I am!!! Although they are children, they understand more than what we realize and I caught a glimpse of that." For Monique, the level on that half-full glass just got a little higher.

Dear Friends,

Family homelessness knows no geographic boundaries. In every community there are low-income, working families who are unstably housed. Many are only one unexpected event away from losing their housing. A costly car repair or several missed shifts because of a sick child can create enough of an income loss for a struggling family to fall behind on the rent. Before you know it, unable to recover financially, they start that slide into homelessness.

Always Home focuses on Preventing Family Homelessness. We work with families to identify and remediate the root causes of their homelessness, like improving their ability to get to work through our Wheels to Work program. Always Home's goal is always to build family strength and resiliency so that parents can sustain housing for their children.

In communities near and far, wherever a family is in need, Always Home helps so that our region's children will never have to know what it means to be homeless. Because of your commitment to our mission, we are changing the lives of families and the future of their children.

We are so grateful for your support.



Jeff Anderson, Executive Director

Fitch Falcons Score One for Always Home

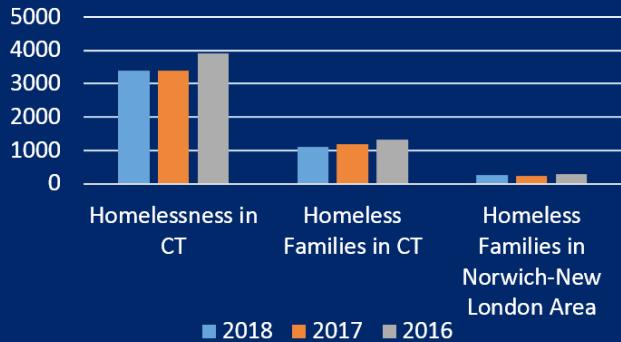


Fitch High School's Basketball Team, along with Head Coach Charles Silvan, donned gardening gloves to pull weeds, rake leaves, clip hedges, mow, and remove debris from the yards of Always Home's Groton properties. Always Home owns two, 2-family homes that provide below-market-rate rental housing and an emergency shelter unit for families who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. Overseeing the cleanup was Mystic resident, Rob Richards. Richards is a reliable volunteer who generously donates his time and skill to maintaining Always Home's properties. Joining him in the cleanup effort were Jack Cannon of Mystic and Pam Johnstone of Stonington.

Connecticut Counts Homelessness



3 YEARS OF PIT COUNT RESULTS



Annually, communities across the United States conduct a census of the nation's homeless population. This single day Point in Time (PIT) Count is a snapshot that reflects the average number of sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals and families on any given night. Results of the

2018 Connecticut PIT Count, coordinated by the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness and released this May, showed a 25% statewide decline in homelessness numbers since starting the CT PIT count in 2007.

A total of 3,383 people in CT were experiencing homelessness in 2018, a decrease of four people from last year. Family homelessness accounted for 1,112 of these individuals (down 6% from 1,180 in 2016); 676 of these homeless family members were children under the age of 18. On a local note, total homelessness in the Norwich-New London area increased by 44 people in 2018, half of whom (22) were adults and children in families. Always Home attributes this increase in local family homelessness to the rising cost of rents in Southeastern Connecticut and the persistent struggle to maintain housing on a minimum wage job.

Peter Green Joins Always Home Board

Longtime Waterford resident Peter Green is the newest addition to Always Home's Board of Directors. Born and raised in Berkeley, California, this West Coast transplant has called Connecticut home for the last 48 years. Peter's career path started as a Jet Pilot with the United States Air Force where he flew 263 combat missions in the Vietnam War. After retiring from the Air Force as a Lt. Colonel, Peter became a Commercial Pilot for TWA. He eventually landed in Connecticut to work in Nuclear Construction at General Dynamics Electric Boat. As the Trident Submarine Program Manager, Peter provided leadership, technical supervision and oversight at a pivotal point when the submarines were to be converted from ballistic-missile ships to tactical-missile/special operations ships.

Since retiring from Electric Boat in 2001, Peter has been actively engaged in giving back to his community. Peter brings not only passion for our mission of Preventing Family Homelessness, but a strong conviction that ordinary citizens can make a difference. They just need to get involved.

As a former U.S. Air Force Jet Pilot, Peter brings a fighting spirit to his volunteerism. He willingly takes on hard tasks, persevering until they are done. In addition to his work with Always Home, Peter serves as Chairman of the Waterford Utility Commission, is Past President and a current member of the Ledyard Rotary Club, is active in the United Methodist Church of Gales Ferry and is a member of both the Ram Island Yacht Club and Westbrook Fishing Club. Please join us in welcoming Peter!

