

**Because everyone  
deserves a safe,  
affordable home...**



**PARTNERSHIP  
FOR STRONG  
COMMUNITIES**

*A Safe, Affordable Home:  
The Foundation of Opportunity*

**2016 Year in Review**



## Our work

### End homelessness



### Expand affordable housing



### Share knowledge



## Our mission is to end homelessness, expand affordable housing and build strong communities in Connecticut.

### From the Executive Director



As we enter a new year and an uncharted political landscape, I'm reminded of the old adage that "the only constant is change." Change here in Connecticut has resulted in great movement in ending homelessness, and significant progress in ensuring that all individuals have safe, affordable places to call home.

Connecticut was recognized federally as the second state to end homelessness among all Veterans. Now, Connecticut is ending chronic homelessness through an unprecedented collaboration between state, federal and community partners. Investments in supportive housing and the creation of a coordinated system have been critical elements. The leadership and investments of the Malloy

Administration, supported by the General Assembly, have rapidly accelerated the state's pace.

Broad support for affordable housing, supportive housing and ending homelessness not only makes good sense, but provides a return in dollars and cents. A third of Connecticut households are burdened by their housing costs and have little left over for other necessities. By providing homes that people can afford and which meet their needs, we can improve education, health care, employment and other policy outcomes.

The state's fiscal problems are also helped by enlightened housing policy. Data show that supportive housing is more cost-effective than the cost of allowing people who are chronically homeless to remain so. Especially in these difficult fiscal times, we cannot afford to waste precious public resources, and ending chronic homelessness both saves lives and saves public dollars. So in this time of significant change, there are fundamental constants that will continue to advance our work. Thoughtful housing policy is smart, it's frugal, it's working, and it benefits everyone in our communities and state.

Alicia Woodsby, Executive Director

## A home is the foundation of opportunity, essential to good health, education and strong communities for all residents of our state.

At the Partnership, we envision a state with strong, vibrant communities where all people can find safe, affordable homes with access to opportunities, and where being without a home, even briefly, is the rare exception.

### 2016: A Major Success - Veterans' Homelessness Ended

#### Andrea Meluzzi, US Army Veteran

In his youth, Andrea was in and out of foster care and group homes, sometimes staying temporarily with relatives who really had no room for him. This hard-working, passionate young man did whatever he could to survive, sometimes sleeping in the back room of his workplace, or on the rain-soaked sofa of an abandoned apartment building with rats crawling across his feet. The only light that Andrea saw was to enlist in the military, where he knew he'd receive "three meals each day, shelter, clothing, and stability." During his tours in Afghanistan and Iraq, he was injured and could no longer speak clearly and he suffered from PTSD. With an honorable medical discharge, he returned to Connecticut, but homelessness became a way of life once again until a VA counselor helped him with healthcare and a voucher for supportive housing. Andrea enthusiastically explained, "I was glad that people were able to help me in my time of need; without them, I wouldn't be right here right now." Andrea now has a part-time job, volunteers at the VA and because he is earning enough at his job, he gave up his Section 8 voucher in order to make it available to someone who is in greater need.



**Andrea's story is one of remarkable determination and hard work – one showing significant strength in the face of adversity. Our Veterans deserve housing.**

## The Board of Directors

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*“The Partnership for Strong Communities is a valuable ally in the fight to end homelessness and in the state’s mission to expand access to affordable housing. Connecticut is a nationally recognized leader in our efforts to end homelessness as well as in our unprecedented growth in the availability of affordable housing.”*

Commissioner Evonne Klein, CT Department of Housing



## **2016 Successes: Advocate, Engage, and Activate**

### **Advanced policy and mobilized funding**

- Led the application to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for a \$6.6 million grant to create a coordinated system to end youth homelessness
- Partnered to secure funding for System Dynamics Modeling for youth homelessness in order to plan effective interventions and targeting of resources
- Architect of a multiyear grant to strengthen Community Care Teams (CCT) which work to reduce high utilization of acute/crisis health care systems while increasing access to community services and supports, including housing
- Continued to lead efforts to cover supportive housing services under Medicaid as part of the state’s multi-stakeholder team in a national initiative
- Secured \$5 million through CT Housing Finance Authority for permanent supportive housing for people experiencing chronic homelessness
- Championed successful efforts for renewed funding investment in Coordinated Access Networks through the CT Department of Housing
- Led the creation of a unified statewide policy agenda for ending homelessness
- Elevated the conversation on housing stability as a way to reduce recidivism and increase diversion in the juvenile justice system



### **Shaped ideas and engaged the public**

- Published 15 fact sheets/policy briefs and the 2016 *HousingInCT* annual housing report to widely share progress made and challenges that lie ahead
- Hosted 700+ stakeholders at the 2016 IForum series on topics including household mobility, housing choice/affordability, transit, family homelessness, and financing to end homelessness
- Presented statewide and nationally on best practices in ending chronic homelessness, youth homelessness and on the need for affordable housing choice

### **Championed strategies and supported activities**

#### **To end homelessness...**

- Achieved a major campaign goal of ending homelessness among Veterans, which was federally recognized in February 2016
- Co-led the coordination of the Zero:2016 initiative through the Reaching Home Campaign, which housed more than 1,200 chronically homeless people since January 2015 and is on the cusp of ending chronic homelessness in the state
- Convened Coordinated Access Networks regularly at the state level and championed work to refine a coordinated homelessness response system and align policies and systems reforms
- Established the Families with Children Homelessness Workgroup and continued to lead the creation of a plan to end family homelessness by the end of 2020
- Supported the planning for Youth Engagement Team Innovators (YETIs) at the local level to advance the work with youth and young adults experiencing homelessness



#### **... and help communities plan for affordable housing**



- Crafted a proposal to OPM to improve coordination of state resources to create more affordable housing units in many more towns throughout the state
- Provided technical assistance and outreach to 150 towns in Connecticut, including a town survey, video, and other efforts
- Produced a toolkit and hosted events to support towns in advancing affordable housing options, including Planning Consultants Directory, Municipal Resources website, and the 2nd Multifamily Speed Dating event



*“The Partnership has been an extremely valuable and terrific resource. The Partnership’s data and analysis have been very helpful as we continue our efforts to make sure that the business community is well informed and engaged in the many important housing-related discussions underway in Middlesex County and throughout the state.”*

Jeffrey Pugliese,  
Vice President, Middlesex  
County Chamber of  
Commerce

*“The Partnership has made it much easier to build affordable housing in Connecticut. As a developer, I appreciate how they have helped municipal officials and residents understand how housing creation can help them and their towns. Through forums, publications and presentations, the Partnership has raised the level of understanding and, as a result, sparked the creation of thousands of homes for families in need.”*

Seila Mosquera  
Executive Director  
Neighborworks New Horizons



**With gratitude to our funders for their commitment and generosity**

**\$100,000 and above**

Melville Charitable Trust  
United Health Foundation

**\$20,000-\$99,999**

Connecticut Health Foundation  
Fairfield County Community Foundation  
The Hartford  
The Tow Foundation

**\$10,000-\$19,999**

Connecticut Housing Finance Authority  
Connecticut Department of Housing  
Michael Hanley & Mary Ann O'Connor Hanley  
The Bank of America Foundation  
People's United Community Foundation  
Webster Bank  
William C. Graustein and Jean M. Graustein

**\$5,000-\$9,999**

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Charlotte and John Suhler  
Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness  
Ensworth Charitable Foundation  
Farmington Bank Community Foundation  
Garden Homes Management Corporation

**\$1,500-\$4,999**

Connecticut Health Foundation  
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Liberty Bank Foundation  
People's United Bank  
Supportive Housing Works  
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**\$500-\$1,499**

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**\$100-\$499**

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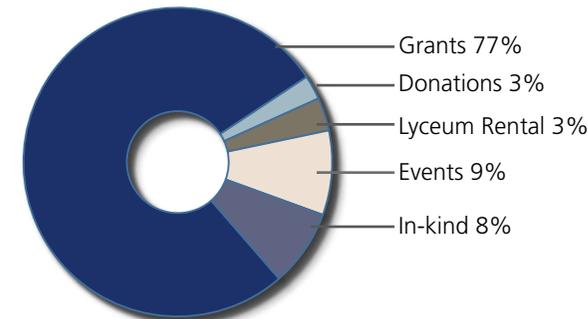
**(\$100-\$499 funders, con't)**

Continuum of Care, Inc./Continuum Home Health, Inc.  
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ImmaCare Inc.  
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Stephanie Green and Zeke Vanderhoek  
Susan Koppel  
United Way of Coastal Fairfield County  
Wendy Kohn and Heather Mosher

**Financials July 2015 - June 2016**

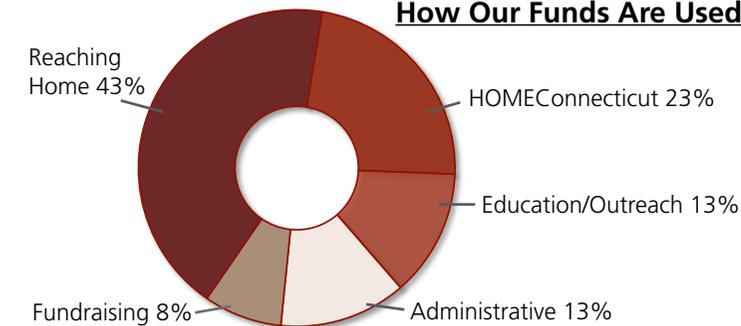
**Revenue: \$1,675,928 Expenses: \$1,608,872**

**Where Our Funding Comes From**



We run a lean organization, with the majority of our funds (79%) going toward program costs. To put your donor investment in perspective: In the Partnership's work over the past decade, **for every dollar donated, we have returned close to a hundred dollars in public resources** for our partners to accomplish our combined community goals.

**How Our Funds Are Used**



*\*audited financial statements available on request or view on Guidestar.org*



***“Connecticut REALTORS® applaud the impacts of the Partnership's outreach initiatives, particularly the Reaching Home campaign. The Partnership brings leaders from a variety of sectors together to craft solutions to end homelessness in our state. We support their continued efforts to create opportunities for affordable, workforce housing and to end homelessness.”***

*Michael Feldman, President, Connecticut REALTORS®*

## Did you know?

*In Connecticut in 2015:*

~ **11,000** people



experienced  
homelessness

~ **250,000** households



spent at least half their  
income on housing



**PARTNERSHIP  
FOR STRONG  
COMMUNITIES**

227 LAWRENCE STREET  
HARTFORD, CT 06106

## What can you do?

**Donate online:**

[www.pschousing.org](http://www.pschousing.org)

**By check:**

227 Lawrence Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

**Because together, we will finish the job.**



**Ending homelessness.  
Expanding affordable housing.  
Strengthening Connecticut's communities.**

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