Year in Review

January 2015

That's Where It Begins.

Four Walls and a Door.

A Safe, Affordable Home: The Foundation of Opportunity
Our Vision: 
A Home 
For Everyone

Four walls and a door – a place to call home. It’s essential to good health, education, and economic advancement – the foundation for a brighter future for families and individuals and the communities where they live.

At the Partnership, we work to build a state where all can find safe, affordable housing, where being without a home, even briefly, is the rare exception. The board and staff of the Partnership, and those we work with, share this vision – four walls and a door for everyone.

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Founding Member, Fairfield County Community Foundation
Chair, Darien Affordable Housing Advisory Commission
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Former Executive Vice President and General Counsel
People’s United Bank
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Kate Robinson
Lobbyists and Government Relations Consultants
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Mike Hanley
Senior Consultant

Susan Campbell
Communications Consultant
Thank you for joining in our Partnership to bring the benefits of secure, affordable housing to everyone in need across our state. We have big goals, among them to:

- End homelessness for veterans and people who are chronically homeless in 2015 and 2016, respectively.
- Prevent and end homelessness among families with children and unaccompanied youth.
- Expand affordable housing through Incentive Housing Zones and other creative land-use and financing strategies.
- Promote transit systems across the state that connect people to the housing options, jobs and services they need.

As we begin a new year, the end is in sight for veteran and chronic homelessness. Chronic homelessness includes people who have been homeless for the longest term, and have a mental illness or other serious disability. These are vulnerable individuals – many at risk of dying on the streets. We can build on this success to reach our goals for families with children and youth. Ultimately, we can end homelessness as we know it in our state.

In the 10 years since we’ve incorporated, many partners have joined us. We now work with people from business, education, transportation, healthcare, human services, mental health, corrections, environmental quality, energy conservation and more. Together, our policy and advocacy work has resulted in nearly $1 billion in public funding to help build homes and create programs to end homelessness.

In this brief report, we highlight key accomplishments and gratefully recognize the people and institutions that have helped fund our vital work. Without you, we cannot succeed. I also invite you to visit our website (www.pschousing.org) and follow us on social media.

Thank you for joining us. I look forward to a challenging and exciting year ahead.

Alicia Woodsby, MSW
Executive Director

Our Mission
Ending homelessness and expanding affordable housing to strengthen Connecticut communities.

“PSC is a remarkable organization to work with. They have a deep understanding of the problems facing us today, along with real skills in bringing people together to get genuine solutions.”

– Roger Reynolds, Legal Director, CT Fund for the Environment
Our Work: Innovation and Transformation

Over the last year, we have seen some of the most innovative, transformative, and meaningful work done to prevent and end homelessness in Connecticut, and profound energy toward increasing the state’s stock of affordable housing.

The Partnership for Strong Communities is proud of our role in contributing to these efforts.

“The Partnership is where thoughtful people who care about Connecticut come together to examine the complex interconnections between housing, transportation, education, economic development, and other issues affecting our communities. More than any other organization I know, the Partnership embodies in its DNA the idea that absolutely everything is connected, and only by understanding those connections can we take effective action to change our communities for the better.”

– Sue Murphy
Executive Director, Liberty Bank Foundation

Advocacy resulting in housing options for vulnerable people.

Our policy and advocacy efforts contributed to an unprecedented commitment for housing from Governor Malloy and the Legislature.

Gov. Malloy and Alicia Woodsby congratulate Reaching Home Supportive Housing Tenant Awardee Anastasia Chamiec.

Shaping ideas and policy innovations. We embraced our role in sharing knowledge and building partnerships. We advanced promising housing policies by keeping up with best practices, current data and research, and sharing them widely. Our popular IForums, a series of conversations on housing issues, drew some of the smartest and most innovative people in the field.
Helping local communities plan for affordable housing. We created a variety of resources for local communities looking to expand their affordable housing options.

Creating strategies and taking action to expand affordable housing and end homelessness. We developed initiatives meant to cut through the static and meet our mission, such as improving the integration of housing and health services through the Opening Doors Hospital Initiative. We also spurred creation of Regional Housing Groups throughout the state composed of diverse leaders who understand housing policy and the housing markets in their area. Partnering with the Melville Charitable Trust and other philanthropic organizations, we launched the Secure Jobs CT initiative, a pilot that will connect families moving from homelessness to housing with employment and tailored support services.

Tackling the growing problem of runaway and unaccompanied youth. We brought together partners to implement a variety of key initiatives to assist this underserved population. Among them were the first of its kind study of Connecticut’s runaway and unaccompanied youth, design of the first statewide count of homeless and unaccompanied youth, and work on development of age-appropriate housing assistance and services.

“PSC is a great asset to Connecticut. With the support of the Partnership, Connecticut homeless service providers and our government partners are able to work together more effectively to advance the goal of ending homelessness. We could not make the great progress we are making without the Partnership.”

– Lisa Tepper Bates Executive Director, Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness
With Gratitude to Our Funders

$100,000 and above
Melville Charitable Trust

Connecticut Department of Housing
Connecticut Health Foundation
TD Charitable Foundation
The Hartford Financial Services Group
The New York Community Trust/One Region Funders’ Group
The Tow Foundation

$20,000-$99,999
Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development
Connecticut Housing Finance Authority
Ensworth Charitable Foundation
Michael & Mary Ann Hanley People’s United Community Foundation
Webster Bank

$10,000-$19,999
American Savings Foundation
Farmington Bank
Liberty Bank Foundation
Stephen & Ruth Melville Wells Fargo Foundation

$5,000-$9,999
Center for Human Development
Chrysalis Center, Inc.

Citizens Bank
Columbus House
Community Health Network of Connecticut, Inc.
Connecticut Association of Realtors
Connecticut Coalition To End Homelessness
Connecticut Housing Coalition
Continuum Home Health, Inc.
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston
Friendship Service Center of New Britain
Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity
Immaculate Conception Shelter & Housing Corporation
Janice Elliott
Konover Residential Corporation
LaRosa Building Group, LLC
Liberty Bank
Mayo Crowe LLC
Meghan Lowney
Mercy Housing and Shelter Corporation
Middlesex Hospital
Mohegan Sun
My Sisters’ Place
National Equity Fund
Newcastle Housing Ventures, LLC
People’s United Bank
Robinson & Cole LLP
Suhler Family Fund
Supportive Housing Works
The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven

ValueOptions
Whittlesey & Hadley, P.C.
Women’s Institute for Housing and Economic Development
William Kosturko
Yale University

$500-$999
CIL Development, Inc.
Connecticut Business & Industry Association
Freeman Companies
Hoffman Auto Group
Howard Rifkin
Paul B. Bailey Architect LLC
Robert Haggett & Susan Pietrogallo
The WorkPlace

$100-$499
AIDS Connecticut
Alice Carrier
Ann Woodward Consulting LLC
Anthony V. Milano
Gallo & Robinson, LLC
giveGreater.org
Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce
Katherine Kelly
Lexington Partners
Murtha Cullina LLP
Susan Campbell

“The Partnership for Strong Communities is a model for how to bring real solutions to local and state housing challenges, a model that has influenced efforts in neighboring states as well as Connecticut.”

– Chris Jones, Vice President for Research, Regional Plan Association
Financials for FY2014

Fiscal Year 2014 Revenues: $1,498,457

The Partnership is a well-established and thriving organization. As we continue to grow, we have set a goal to broaden our donor base and make it even easier for individuals, foundations and corporations to support this important work. We are making significant progress toward achieving our goals: an end to chronic and veteran homelessness is within reach, and many more municipalities recognize the benefits of bringing affordable housing to their communities. In this time of great demand and opportunity, we rely on our supporters to ensure that we can to meet the challenges of this ambitious work.

How We Use Our Resources

The Partnership runs a lean organization. Eighty-six percent of expenses are for program costs. Our resources are strategically used to build the capacity to meet our mission with a focus on creating innovative approaches and positive policy environments at the state and local levels that result in long-term change. For example, our advocacy in 2014 resulted in new state resources committed for rapid rehousing to help families exit homelessness and for services to support youth who are homeless.

— Betsy Crum, Executive Director, Connecticut Housing Coalition
Did You Know?

- 13,663 people experienced homelessness in Connecticut in 2013, including 2,440 children, 1,000 veterans and 2,400 people experiencing chronic homelessness.
- 49% of renters in Connecticut spent 30% or more of their income on housing in 2013 – making it unaffordable.
- In 2013, just 31 cities and towns in Connecticut had over 10% of their housing stock designated as affordable.

Working with our partners, we are making a difference!

- From 2012 to 2013, homelessness was on the decline: 4% decrease in overall homelessness, 10% drop in chronic homelessness, 6% decline in veterans homelessness.
- 19 upper-income municipalities have sought state HOMEConnecticut grants to weigh mixed-income housing production.
- The number of designated affordable housing units grew to 167,504 in 2013 from 161,379 in 2012.
- Connecticut now has close to 6,000 units of supportive housing in 80 communities across the state.


Through our leadership of the Reaching Home and HOMEConnecticut Campaigns, our iForums, our research, publications and communications and our advocacy, Partnership for Strong Communities is working to achieve our mission.

Join Us!

WWW.PSCHOUSING.ORG