Because everyone deserves a safe, affordable home...

PARTNERSHIP FOR STRONG COMMUNITIES

A Safe, Affordable Home: The Foundation of Opportunity

2015 Year in Review
Our Vision

A place to call home... it’s the foundation of opportunity. A home is essential to good health, education and strong communities for all citizens of our state.

At the Partnership, we believe that homelessness is unacceptable, solvable and preventable. We and our partners work to build a state where people have choices, where everyone can find safe, affordable housing, where being without a home, even briefly, is the rare exception.

The Board of Directors

Charlotte Suhler, Chair
Founding Member, Fairfield County Community Foundation; Chair, Darien Affordable Housing Advisory Commission

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Former Vice President, Liberty Bank

Howard Rifkin
Corporation Counsel, Office of the Mayor, City of Hartford

Kevin B. Sullivan
Commissioner, CT Department of Revenue Services

A special thank you:

In December 2015, David Fink formally retired from full-time employment with the Partnership as its Policy Director. For over a decade, David organized and directed the HOMEConnecticut campaign and coordinated education and advocacy efforts that relate housing to education, transportation, energy, healthcare and other key disciplines. David is a state leader on housing policy and a tireless advocate for affordable housing. He has worked with scores of municipalities on planning and zoning issues, and played a major role in transforming the conversation about affordable housing in our state. Fortunately, David will continue to work on a part-time basis as a consultant for the Partnership. We are grateful to David for his years of service and we wish him well in retirement!
From the Executive Director - 2015: A year of success and building momentum...

At the Partnership, we know that to solve social problems as complex as homelessness and affordable housing, we need collective impact, a structure for bringing people together to achieve social change. That’s where the Partnership’s leadership comes in. Our work is to advocate for policy changes and dedicated resources and to organize effective collaboration across multiple communities, systems and sectors.

Over the past year, we have seen federal, state, and local level planning efforts combined with unprecedented state resources and remarkable community collaboration. The results have been transformative. From state and town officials, to philanthropists, local shelter providers and developers, I have watched and collaborated with these passionate and dedicated people as we all worked to advance our collective goal. In this report, we’ve detailed some of the incredible successes that we and our many partners have achieved over the past year.

The result of these combined efforts wouldn’t have been believable just a few years ago. Connecticut is creating a system to end homelessness, and is making substantial headway for Veterans and people with disabilities. And while of course it’s a system that will need to be managed, the lessons learned can be harnessed to solve homelessness for all who experience it. It will take continued commitment and strategic investment to ensure the system is strong and stable. It will require additional affordable housing and the ability to rapidly and permanently house those who do fall into homelessness.

A strong community begins with a home for each of its members. Let’s keep the momentum going and finish the job for everyone in Connecticut. We can do this, together.

Thank you for being part of these efforts.

Alicia Woodsby, Executive Director
Building Momentum: FY 2015 Successes

Advocacy: advance policy and mobilize funding

Renewed or new policy developments:

- $365 million over the biennium in bonding for affordable and supportive housing development
- 180 new units of permanent supportive housing for individuals frequently cycling through shelters and the criminal justice system
- 100 new units of permanent supportive housing for people experiencing chronic homelessness
- Legislation that raised the age of youth/young adults who could be served by the state’s program for homeless youth
- A statewide homeless youth coordinator at the Department of Housing

Outreach: shape ideas and policies

- Organized five IForum events attended by ~800 people on health care/housing, youth homelessness, post-industrial cities, public housing revitalization, and housing choices/mobility
- Advanced the public understanding of homelessness and affordable housing through various media sources
- Published the 2015 HousingInCT annual housing report and updated Housing Data Profiles for every town and county in the state (available at www.pschousing.org/publications)

“The Partnership brings folks to the table that need to be there to have the discussion and tell the stories and learn the ways and methods to best help people get housed. And that has made a huge difference in our state.”

Dave Martineau
Executive Director, Mercy Housing and Shelter and Chair of Reaching Home Steering Committee
Action: guide strategies and support activities

To end homelessness...

- Connecticut became the first state to end chronic homelessness among Veterans
- Reaching Home launched Zero:2016, a national initiative adopted by the Malloy Administration to end chronic and Veterans homelessness by the end of 2016 in Connecticut
- Supported the creation of Coordinated Access Networks across the state to help community providers coordinate service delivery to individuals experiencing homelessness by providing a single point of entry and a common tool for assessing vulnerability and need
- Continued our work to identify frequent visitors of hospital emergency departments who are homeless and to connect them to housing and other services
- Launched the Opening Doors for Youth action plan to end youth homelessness and partnered on the first ever statewide youth count to capture the scope of the problem, which estimated 3,000 youth (age 10-24 years) experiencing homelessness in Connecticut
- Established a public/private partnership (Secure Jobs CT) with 27 Connecticut foundations to improve employment outcomes for families exiting homelessness

... and help communities plan for affordable housing

- Initiated HOMEConnecticut 2.0, opportunity-oriented development to support towns that have carried out the necessary zoning and planning work for moving to the next level in creating affordable housing
- Worked with dozens of towns to promote local housing creation by developing tools such as videos, surveys, policy briefs and more
- Supported Middlesex Chamber of Commerce with community dialogue for developing affordable housing
- Assisted Regional Plan Association in drafting the 4th Regional Plan to advance strategically located and affordable housing in Fairfield, New Haven and Litchfield counties
With gratitude to our funders for their commitment and generosity

**$100,000 and above**
- Melville Charitable Trust

**$20,000-$99,999**
- Capitol Region Council of Governments
- Connecticut Department of Housing
- Connecticut Health Foundation
- Connecticut Housing Finance Authority
- Fairfield County Community Foundation
- Regional Plan Association, Inc.
- The Hartford
- The Tow Foundation

**$10,000-$19,999**
- LEEDS Equity Partners
- Michael Hanley & Mary Ann O’Connor Hanley
- TD Charitable Foundation
- The Bank of America Foundation

**$5,000-$9,999**
- Anonymous
- Connecticut Coalition To End Homelessness
- Connecticut Dept of Economic & Community Development
- Fairfield County Community Foundation-The Suhler Family Fund
- Garden Homes Fund
- The Guilford Foundation, Inc.
- Webster Bank
- William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund

**$1,500-$4,999**
- Connecticut Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services
- Fairfield County Community Foundation-The Meghan Lowney Fund
- Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston
- Guilford Interfaith Housing Corporation
- Howard Rifkin
- LaRosa Building Group, LLC
- Liberty Bank Foundation
- Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority
- People’s United Bank
- Supportive Housing Works
- The Sassafras Foundation, Inc.
- The Simon Konover Company
- ValueOptions Connecticut
- William T. Kosturko

**$500-$1,499**
- Billings Forge Community Works
- Center for Human Development
- Columbus House
- Community Health Network of Connecticut
- Community Renewal Team, Inc.
- Connecticut Business & Industry Association
- Connecticut REALTORS®
- David Fink & Phyllis Hyman
- David Sayet
- Farmington Bank
- Gaffney Bennett & Associates, Inc.

**$100-$499**
- Anonymous
- AIDS Connecticut
- Brown Rudnick, LLP
- Capitol Strategies Group, LLC
- Charter Oak Communities
- Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Connecticut Housing Coalition
- Continuum of Care, Inc.
- Connecticut Legal Rights Project, Inc.

**“The Partnership for Strong Communities has their finger on the pulse of what matters most and they understand the importance of what it means to have a home. They serve as champions for those who don’t always have a voice to help make change for the betterment of all.”**

Kathy Luria
Senior Vice President, Community Affairs
Webster Bank
The Partnership for Strong Communities is truly a thought leader in efforts to end homelessness and promote affordable housing in our state. Many of us look to the Partnership for data and analysis on these issues which are so important to Connecticut’s residents.”

Richard J. Porth, President/CEO, United Way of Connecticut

Financials July 2014 - June 2015
Revenue: $1,535,216   Expenses: $1,537,982

Where Our Funding Comes From
- Grants 79%
- Events 14%
- Lyceum Rental 3%
- Donations/Other 4%

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.

We run a lean organization, with the vast majority of our expenses (83%) going toward program costs: the Reaching Home campaign, HOMEConnecticut campaign and our public education and outreach efforts.

*audited financial statements available on request or view on Guidestar.org
Did you know?

~ 11,000 people experience homelessness each year

In Connecticut:

37% of households spend a third or more of income on housing

only 29 towns have 10% of housing stock as affordable

How are we helping?

Since 1998, the Partnership has successfully advocated for over $1 billion in public funding which helped us and our partners to:

establish ~5,000 units of permanent supportive housing

END chronic homelessness among Veterans and set a path to end all homelessness

assist over 40% of CT towns in promoting affordable housing creation

What can you do?

Please DONATE.
Because together, we can finish the job.

Donate online at www.pschousing.org
By check to 227 Lawrence St, Hartford, CT 06106

Thank you!