

Homes with Hope

Solving homelessness in our communities through supportive housing



February 2011 Newsletter

Responding to the Extreme Weather

The severe cold and inordinate amount of snow has everyone wound up but for very different reasons. The kids love it, the parents are under pressure to handle the snow days and the HwH staff and property management personnel have struggled mightily to keep up with plowing, shoveling, a burst pipe and a steady stream of calls for shelter.



The Gillespie Snow Mountain

During the very cold weather, the new governor instituted a very significant plan to assist homeless people in the state who could not find shelter or who could not be accommodated by the existing

shelter system. This innovative program allowed shelters to place families and individuals in motels during the very cold nights in January for free and could also get them vouchers for transportation to get to the motels if they needed it. The program was implemented by Infoline, a United Way program that provides a telephone based

information, referral and crisis intervention service available statewide. This was a bold move to keep people safe in the extreme cold weather.

Morgan Stanley Foundation Comes to the Aid of the Bacharach Community

Westporter, Bruce Hennemuth, has been on the Board of Homes with Hope since 1997, Treasurer of the organization since 2001 and is also Executive Director in the Fixed Income business unit at Morgan Stanley. Recently the agency received a generous donation from the Morgan Stanley Foundation that represents support from all of the business units within Morgan Stanley including Front Point Partners, Morgan Stanley Bank, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney and Saxon. "This contribution was made on behalf of the volunteer efforts of Morgan Stanley employee, Bruce Hennemuth."

According to Jeff Wieser, President and CEO of Homes with Hope, "we are of course grateful for the contribution from the Foundation but moreover we are thankful for the selfless commitment Bruce has demonstrated in his long service as Board member and Board

treasurer. Homes with Hope only exists because of the efforts of people like Bruce and the support of their employers."

Morgan Stanley Foundation's grant is earmarked for the Bacharach Community, Homes with Hope's emergency shelter for homeless families headed by single women. The mothers and their children who come to stay on Wassell Lane or at the Linxweiler House on the Post Road have struggled with economic hardship, mental illness, substance abuse or domestic violence. In Connecticut, 73% of homeless families are headed by a female, single parent. In addition, 47% of children in these families are under the age of five; slightly higher than the national average, according to the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness. The need for the Bacharach Community and programs like

it is critical.

"The Morgan Stanley Foundation has been supporting the communities in which we live and work for nearly 50 years. We believe a healthy start and a solid education are the fundamentals upon which future success is built. In service of this mission, Morgan Stanley and its employees generously donate intellectual capital, leadership and sweat equity to leverage the Foundation's financial support, maximize our impact on communities and deepen our partnerships with grantees." For more information on the Morgan Stanley Foundation visit their website at www.morganstanley.com.

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What is HwH up to?

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- Save the Date - 10th Annual Castles in the Sand



Winter Solstice Party 2010



Kim Wilson

The traditional HwH holiday party was very successful again this year! Due to the construction of Christ and Holy Trinity, the party was held in an interesting new location. The soulful feel of Toquet Hall and their wonderful stage was a homey venue for a satisfying meal of shepherd's pie, roast turkeys, salad and sumptuous desserts that was offered to all of our

over 65 clients and friends, not to mention the incredible after-dinner entertainment. Kim Wilson, a Westport actress and singer, sang for us and engaged all the children that night in carols on the stage. Vice President Audrey Sparre's wonderful friends and the staff of HwH's various programs did the planning, setup, baking and cleanup. Dale Gardner, our Solstice Party chef for the last 10 years, once again cooked the amazing meal. It was a wonderful evening!

An Easy Way To Help...

Looking for a direct and easy way to support the mission of HwH? Gift card for groceries, gasoline, or phone minutes are an enormous help to our clients and tenants. Stop&Shop has a large variety of gift cards located near the check out!

Volunteer Spotlight: Dolores Bacharach

Calling Dolores Bacharach "a volunteer" at Homes with Hope is like calling Amelia Earhart a pilot. "Do" was an original founder of Interfaith Housing, along with her husband, Jim, in 1981; she was among the first volunteers to cook for the Community Kitchen (then literally the "Soup Kitchen") and she has served meals over three decades at four evolving locations, the latest at the Gillespie Center, for the last 22 years!

Dolores has been a professional volunteer all her life, and Homes with Hope is fortunate that she has shared her energy with us over the years. She is just as comfortable speaking about the excitement at the agency when they received their first two substantial gifts, putting the agency on a more permanent financial footing ("from Paul Newman and Citibank") as she is talking about how much easier volunteerism

has evolved since the move to the Gillespie Center in 1988.

"Soup is hard!" said Do, explaining that in the early days, residents received soup and a peanut butter and jelly sandwich every day at 1 pm. When Save the Children allowed the soup kitchen to move to their conference room, the menu did not change, but the meal time moved until after work at 5 o'clock, the time that remains at the Gillespie Center today. "It is so much easier to transport real meals than it is to transport soup. My friend's car smelled like corn chowder for years!"

For the last 15 years, Do has been a motivator and has served with a team from the Church of the Assumption; a team that includes Do's monthly partner Joanne French as well as Phyllis Schaner, Priscilla Boyle, Marilyn Moran (the dessert chef) and Judy Barrow.

Year End Fundraising

December is a big month for Homes with Hope and for many not – for – profit entities. We are not unusual in that nearly 50% of our individual giving is typically received from a generous community in the month of December. That is all wonderful news but is still nerve wracking until the results are known! Especially in a transition year, we all watched the mail carefully as a generous list of very loyal donors continued their support of Homes with Hope. Our operating results ended the year better than overall budget, but just short of a break-even result for the year. In the circumstances of a questionable economy, and a transition in leadership, we count that as a very firm result. Thanks to you and

your neighbors, HwH remains a very sound entity, 1) financially because of your generosity and 2) spiritually because of the broad community support that we receive from donors who believe in our mission of providing solutions to chronic homelessness. That support came from more than 600 households in Westport and 900 donors overall. Our individual contributions accounted for more than 40% of our operating income and easily represented the largest source of support we receive. **Thanks to all for continuing to show the widespread community support for our mission!**



Dolores Bacharach

So, after nearly thirty years of providing a monthly meal to the Community Kitchen, what is Do's fondest memory? "One Christmas Eve, years ago, our daughter was home from college, the Driscoll's were there, the Gillespie's were there. We started off singing Christmas carols - very solemnly - but then Boscoe, our first employee, got the place rocking! It was great fun. But then, every trip to the Community Kitchen is enjoyable. All the people are so grateful. I get many more compliments than I ever did with my own children!"

WIN Holiday Party



A mentoring pair

On December 19th, twenty-two WIN participants, mentors and mentees, enjoyed a warm and festive afternoon at the Westport Country Playhouse. The memorable afternoon began with a pre-theatre holiday gathering in the lovely Smilow Lounge. This was followed by a spirited and uplifting performance by *The Broadway Boys*. The show provided a

joyous boost to what can otherwise be a difficult and stressful time of year. The feeling among the mentoring partners was unanimously upbeat. Everyone had a fabulous time!

Thanks to the generosity of the Westport Country Playhouse and their Theater Access Fund, this was the fourth year in a row that the WIN participants were able to get together around the holidays and do something they would not have had the chance to do otherwise.

If you would like to find out about becoming a volunteer or assisting in this

program in some way, please contact Wendy Epstein at (203)222-9260.



Enjoying the holiday party

NCL Holiday Tree Lighting at Bacharach



The group from the National Charity League and the Bacharach Christmas tree

The National Charity League is a mother-daughter volunteer organization that is committed to community service, leadership development and cultural experiences. The NCL has over 40,000 actively engaged mothers and daughters grades 7 through 12 in 17 states. The Bacharach Community has benefited greatly from the generosity of the volunteers in Connecticut who put on a calendar of activities for our families every year. They provide us with babysitting, reading groups and great parties for Halloween, Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

This year, the NCL came with a group of 8th grade girls on December 2nd to set up Christmas trees in each client house. The children in the program assisted with the decorations to make their tree come alive for the holiday season! After the tree was decorated and the lights were hung, there was a party with cookie decorating and plenty of hot chocolate for all! To learn more about the National Charity League, visit their website at www.nationalcharityleague.org.

Save the Date: May 14, 2011 is the 10th Annual Castles in the Sand!



[Share the event on Facebook!](#)

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Housing Programs



Bacharach Community
Emergency Shelter for Single Moms
and their Children



Saugatuck Apartments
Permanent Supportive Housing



Linxweiler House
Extension of Bacharach Community



Westport Rotary Centennial House
Permanent Supportive Housing



Gillespie Center & Hoskins Place
Emergency Shelter for Single Men and Women



Fair Street Apartments
Permanent Supportive Housing

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