

# Homes with Hope

Solving homelessness in our communities through supportive housing



June 2011 Newsletter



Volume 27

June 2011

## The Westport Home Energy Challenge: Help Your Community and Help Homes with Hope!

Homes with Hope has partnered with the Westport Home Energy Challenge, part of the larger Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge, a coalition of non-profit organizations that have come together under a \$4.2 million grant from the federal Department of Energy. This dynamic program is helping Westport households reduce their energy use by 20%.



Reducing energy waste and boosting the use of clean, renewable energy will create cleaner, more livable communities and save valuable household dollars. The Westport Home Energy Challenge will assist you and your neighbors to make the small changes that lead to big results.

Sign up for a home energy audit, save yourself thousands of \$\$\$, and Homes with Hope will earn \$25 – just for your participation! When you participate, everyone wins!

To learn more and join the Energy Challenge today visit: [www.ne-smartenergy.com/westport-challenge](http://www.ne-smartenergy.com/westport-challenge)

### What is HwH up to?

- Westport Home Energy Challenge
- Good Neighbor Day at Westport Wash & Wax
- Sunrise Rotary Presents Forbidden Westport
- Westport's Stop&Shop Helps Those In Need
- Oscar's Deli Provides Fresh Foods
- SL Powers Donates Client Computer Work Station
- Stand Up for Homes with Hope: An Evening with Martin Short
- Local Funders Aid Homeless Families
- Service Sunday
- Pictures from Castles in the Sand

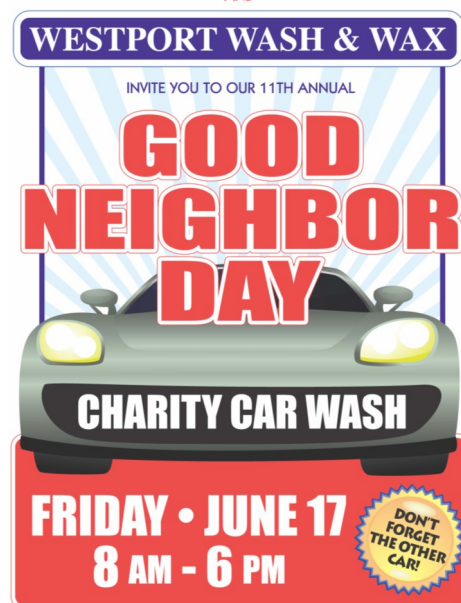
## Sunrise Rotary Presents Forbidden Westport

This year, the Westport Sunrise Rotary decided to once again reprise their musical comedy show, Forbidden Westport that had been a very popular event on two previous occasions. This year's performance, called Forbidden Westport III, "Beaches, Banks, Barons and Budgets," was presented at Bedford Middle School on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. The production was sponsored by Westport Resources and CastleKeep Advisors of Westport and the proceeds of the performance were solely donated to Homes with Hope. The artistic director and head writer, John Franklin, is a long-serving Sunrise Rotarian and the heart and soul of this unusual undertaking. In addition to Mr. Franklin, the show's writers included two Tony Award nominees: David Rogers ("Charlie and Algernon") and William F. Brown ("The Wiz"); as well as Gloria Stashower, Fred Stroepell, Suzanne Tanner, Jeff Wieser and Judith Marks-White.

Aside from his razor sharp wit, part of John Franklin's genius is to include representatives from nearly every facet of

the Town of Westport and crafting some of his skits around what could be considered Westport's dirty laundry. Many of Westport's issues and organizations were on display in the performance including, the Board of Education, Representative Town Meeting, Planning and Zoning Commission, Green Village Initiative, Westport Family Y, Parks and Recreation Commission, Downtown Merchants Association and Westport Young Woman's League. "The show proves you don't have to be 'thin skinned' to serve the town," said Valerie Austyn, Broadway alumna and "Forbidden Westport III" producer. And, this approach sells a lot of tickets!

The show was a great success and well attended this year. While the final accounting has not been completed, the generous donation to Homes with Hope will arrive shortly and will be a great boon to our fundraising efforts this year. We are so grateful to the Westport Sunrise Rotary for their efforts in support of our work and for producing a very funny and enjoyable show.



## Westport's Stop&Shop Helps Those in Need



Again this year Westport's Stop & Shop, through their "Food for Friends" program, has made a sizeable cash donation to Home with Hope's Food Pantry. Local "adopted" food pantries receive 60% of all funds raised from the program. Home with Hope is extremely fortunate to have this assistance from Stop & Shop especially during a time when demand at local food pantries is at an all time high. The Westport store has donated over \$21,000 to HwH through this program since 2001. Homes with Hope's Food Pantry is open to all who need groceries every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday from 1pm - 5pm and Saturdays from

10am - Noon. Two pre-packaged bags of groceries can be picked up weekly. Our thanks go to the management and staff at Stop & Shop for all their hard work making this donation possible, as well as to all of Stop & Shop's patrons who made donations to the program. It is the generosity of the local community that allows us to continue to serve those most in need.



Jeff Wieser and Kirsten Allen of Homes with Hope accept a check from Rother Eldridge and Mark Gerson of Stop&Shop

## Oscar's Deli Provides Access to Fresh Foods

Oscar's Deli is a downtown Westport landmark  
Photo courtesy of Videler Photography  
[www.videler.com](http://www.videler.com)



It is always exciting when the community embraces the work of Homes with Hope in a tangible, meaningful way. That was especially the case for us when the venerable downtown establishment,

Oscar's Delicatessen, suggested that they would like to help those folks who use our Gillespie Center Food Pantry. Lee Papageorge, owner of Oscar's, recognized that users of the Food Pantry receive non-perishable food items, but do not have access to fresh food. As a result he offered at the start of 2011 to include in EVERY BAG of food given out at our Food Pantry a coupon for a dozen fresh eggs, a gallon of milk, a loaf of bread or lettuce and tomatoes.

Since January, Oscar's has been handing out fresh food to many of the users of the Food Pantry, and provides up to 30 of our clients with fresh food every week! This is community outreach at its finest, and we are grateful to Oscar's for their generosity!

## SL Powers Donates Computer for Gillespie Center Clients

In March, the Gillespie Center added a client computer work station courtesy of our very good friends at SL Powers. SL Powers has provided IT services to Homes with Hope for several years now. Bob Hocmuth, Vice President of SL Powers and his team of technicians believe in giving back to the community and have been incredibly generous to HwH during the time we've been

associated with them. They have been able to keep our computer and network costs low but our reliability high.

The addition of a computer at the Gillespie Center has assisted our clients greatly in their efforts to find up-to-date employment information, bus and train schedules, as well as phone and address information for community treatment providers. Our primary focus for many

residents is to assist all that are able to work in their efforts to find a job. Computer access is something that most of us might have considered a luxury many years ago but now has become essential to our lives. Our residents greatly appreciate the opportunity to make their struggle through homelessness a little easier.



**STAND UP** for Homes with Hope

An Evening with **MARTIN SHORT**

SAT • SEPT 24  
WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE • [www.hwhct.org](http://www.hwhct.org)

## Local Funders Aid Homeless Families

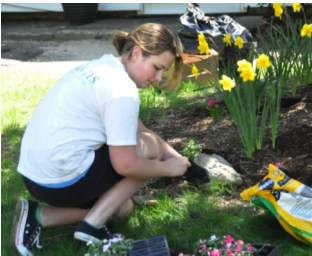
Homes with Hope would like to thank all of the local organizations that have provided grant support to the Bacharach Community, the agency's emergency shelter for families headed by single women located in Westport, so far this year. It is through the generosity of the *Barbara Benton Davis Fund, facilitated by Fairfield County Community Foundation, Near & Far Aid, Newman's Own Foundation, the Bishop's Fund for Children, the Westport Young Woman's League and the Westport Woman's Club* that HwH is able to continue to serve many of the homeless mothers and their children in Fairfield County. In aggregate, this group of funders has granted Bacharach over

\$65,000 just in the first five months of 2011. The shelter, which started in September of 1993, has served 146 families including 213 children since first opening. The mothers and their children who come to stay at Bacharach have struggled with a number of issues, which ultimately led to their becoming homeless. These families find a safe and accepting home-like environment at the Bacharach Community. Through training and counseling they develop the skills necessary to begin leading stable and productive lives. With the assistance of Bacharach's Program Director the families ultimately find a suitable permanent housing situation.

The demand has always been great for this shelter but the need has increased

dramatically over the last few years as the economic environment continues to struggle and the cost of housing remains extremely high. According to Audrey Sparre, Homes with Hope's Vice President, "in addition to the continuing need for more family shelter space, we are seeing an increase in the number of families who have been homeless for longer periods of time. This is due, in part, to a decrease in available rentals but also because families need more assistance to negotiate what can be a very confusing affordable housing system. Acquiring an affordable 2-bedroom apartment is possible but families can literally be on public or subsidized housing waiting lists for years."

## Service Sunday



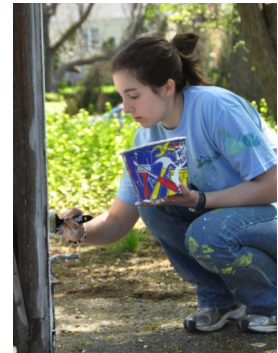
Landscaping at Bacharach

Service Sunday is a one-day volunteer extravaganza powered by the National Charity League and the SLOBS

(Service League of Boys). This year, as they did last year, the groups tackled many maintenance and landscaping tasks. On May 1st, work was done at

Linxweiler House, Gillespie Center, Bacharach Community and Saugatuck Apartments. The volunteers were able to power wash, clean up yards, and paint in the community room at Saugatuck Apartments. They also tended to the big Gillespie Garden. At the Bacharach Community, new blinds and curtains were installed and flowers were planted. The volunteers also were able to caulk and grout some areas in the bathrooms and the Linxweiler House garage was painted! This is a huge volunteer work day and we truly value their assistance.

Painting the Linxweiler Garage



[Click here to view more Service Sunday pictures on Facebook!](#)

## 10th Annual Castles in the Sand Pictures



[Click here to view more Castles in the Sand pictures on Facebook!](#)

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**Homes with Hope**  
**49 Richmondville Ave**  
**Suite 112**  
**Westport, CT 06880**

Phone: 203-226-3426

Fax: 203-226-2557



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

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Hal Shupack

Andrea Terrillion

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**Homes with Hope Professional Staff**

**Jeffrey Wieser**

*President & CEO*

[jwieser@hwhct.org](mailto:jwieser@hwhct.org)

**Audrey Sparre**

*Vice President & COO*

[asparre@hwhct.org](mailto:asparre@hwhct.org)

**Karen Mahar**

*Director of Resource*

*Development*

[kmahar@hwhct.org](mailto:kmahar@hwhct.org)

**Tom Reech**

*Comptroller*

[treech@hwhct.org](mailto:treech@hwhct.org)

**Kirsten Allen**

*Community Relations Coordinator*

[kallen@hwhct.org](mailto:kallen@hwhct.org)

**Maryellen Estrada**

*Program Director*

*Gillespie Center & Hoskins' Place*

[mestrada@hwhct.org](mailto:mestrada@hwhct.org)

**Paris Looney**

*Program Director*

*Bacharach Community &*

*Case Manager*

*Saugatuck Apartments*

[plooney@hwhct.org](mailto:plooney@hwhct.org)

**Nicole Heit**

*Case Manager*

*Gillespie Center & Hoskins' Place*

[nheit@hwhct.org](mailto:nheit@hwhct.org)

**Wendy Epstein**

*Program Director*

*WIN*

*(Women's Interfaith Network) &*

*Case Manager*

*Westport Rotary Centennial House*

[wepstein@hwhct.org](mailto:wepstein@hwhct.org)

**Melanie St. Raymond**

*Case Manager*

*Fair Street Apartments*

[mstraymond@hwhct.org](mailto:mstraymond@hwhct.org)

**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

*Solving homelessness in our communities through supportive housing*