

Homes with Hope

Solving homelessness in our communities through supportive housing



November 2010 Newsletter

“Cones for Cans” Food Drive - Saturday, November 6th!

John Martin and his family, owners of Frosty Bear Ice Cream which is concluding its first year of operation at Christie’s Country Store at 161 Cross Highway in Westport, has announced an unusual end-of-the-year celebration. To cap off the end of their successful season, the Martin’s, in collaboration with Homes with Hope, Longford’s Ice Cream and Christie’s Country Store, has announced a “Cones for Cans” food drive. On Saturday, Nov. 6th, Frosty Bear will give a free ice cream cone to anyone who brings cans of food to the ice cream gazebo at Christie’s foodstuffs which will be given to our Food Pantry at the Gillespie Center in downtown Westport.

“We are grateful that Frosty Bear has chosen to end their successful season with an acknowledgement that not all Westport residents are as fortunate as others,” said HwH President & CEO, Jeff Wieser. “The cans, cereal, pasta, etc. that is collected for the Food Pantry goes immediately to help people in real need and in real hunger. As we start the holiday



John Martin, Owner of Frosty Bear

season, the need only intensifies, so we appreciate the Martin family bringing this awareness to the fore and helping us stock the pantry.”

“For us, this is a way to thank the community for making our first year such a success,” said Martin. We are already looking forward to next year and hope we can, in the meantime, help alleviate the situation for those who are struggling in these difficult economic times.

Frosty Bear will be open from 11 am – 7 pm on Saturday, November 6 for contributions to the Food Pantry. The rain date is Sunday, November 7. Bring in at least one can of food and receive one free ice cream cone. Additional cans of food are encouraged!

Volume 25

November 2010

What is HwH up to?

- “Cones for Cans” Food Drive at Frosty Bear on November 6th
- Profile of a WIN Mentor
- Holiday Generosity
- Paula Poundstone Recap & Pics
- Share the Pie
- First Residents in Fair Street Supportive Housing
- The Community Kitchen & Breakfast of Champions



Janette Schiller: Profile of a WIN Mentor



Janette Schiller

The WIN mentoring program matches women volunteers from the community with other adult women who may be struggling with any number of personal issues. The program is designed to help women create more stable and self-sufficient lives for themselves and their families. Through weekly one-on-one meetings mentors offer compassion guidance and friendship. Over the past thirteen years more than sixty women have volunteered their time as mentors.

Janette Schiller is one of those women. Originally from Dublin Ireland, Janette

moved to California in 1984, where she resided for 20 years. She worked in Human Resources and Corporate Relocation. As a working professional Janette really enjoyed helping others through coaching, counseling and mentoring. When she moved to Westport she had two criteria for volunteering. She wanted to volunteer locally, and she wanted it to be an opportunity she felt passionate about. After googling “volunteer opportunities in Westport”, and reading about WIN, Janette felt that her experience could make a real difference in another woman’s life.

“What I enjoy most about this opportunity is meeting intelligent, kind, resilient women from all walks of life and learning about them culturally, personally and emotionally. I get great satisfaction and enjoyment being a friend and a confidant. I believe that people come into our life to help us grow

and become better people. The women I’ve mentored have really made a lasting impression on my life. I admire their strength, courage, and sense of humor and ‘can-do attitudes’ regardless of their life circumstances. I love being a mentor and this experience has been very rewarding and gratifying for me”.

Janette’s friendship and support have been very much appreciated by the women she has been matched with. In general, mentoring partners make a commitment to meet with each other for an hour a week for a year. Like Janette, most mentors are very good listeners, have compassion for others, and can relate well to people from diverse backgrounds. If you think you might be interested in volunteering as a mentor; or if you think you might like to have a mentor, please contact Wendy Epstein at (203)-226-9920 or wepstein@homeswithhope.org.

Holiday Generosity in Our Community



Starting in late October the staff at Homes with Hope becomes very aware that the holidays will soon be upon us.

Every year we are the beneficiaries of the community's generosity as they think about those less fortunate than themselves. There are groups and individuals who donate food for Thanksgiving meals and the Saugatuck Congregational Church provides both Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner to anyone in the community who want to partake; which includes those in our emergency shelters and supportive

housing. Many want to help by donating Christmas gifts for the children of our programs. All of these reminders of "home" make it just a bit easier for those who find themselves alone and staying in a homeless shelter at a time that most are sharing their time with family and close friends.

This is also the time of year when those who are charged with raising the funds necessary to keep everything going are striving to make sure enough money is garnered. This makes our year-end fundraising efforts critical to continuing the important programs and

facilities we operate. Asking for more at a time when everyone has their hand out is challenging but necessary. Each year, Homes with Hope receives over 50% of the year's total donations from individuals in November and December. Even through the last two year-end fundraising cycles the generous members of the community have maintained or increased their support of the vital basic needs provided by Homes with Hope. We are grateful beyond words for this ongoing support and hope that you will be able to help us help those in need this holiday season.

Third Annual Stand Up For Homes with Hope was a Hit!



More than 500 fans – of Paula Poundstone and Homes with Hope – showed up on September 10th for a riotous evening of comedy. This was the third successful year in a row HwH presented *Stand Up for Homes with Hope* starring a prominent comedy act. In prior

Stand Ups Lewis Black and Bill Cosby have been featured. This year Paula Poundstone came to engage, entertain and enthrall the audience at Westport's Levitt Pavilion for the Performing Arts. Paula's reputation, gained locally from

her appearances on NPR's Saturday morning show, *Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me*, drew-in audience members on a chilly Friday night. She improvised with reckless abandon, involving the audience, stories of her children and her allergies and her observations of Westport. Paula confessed to the audience she never knows when to stop talking so all were treated to nearly two hours of hysterical banter.

Over 250 supporters of Homes with Hope were treated to a pre-show cocktail party and auction under the big tent in the Imperial Parking Lot. The collaboration between the Levitt and HwH was a wonderful success. The catering was

provided by HwH Board member and a *dash of salt Catering* owner Jonathan Mathias. Freda Welsh from the Levitt Pavilion was the master producer of the event and was incredibly helpful to HwH in creating a successful evening.

Many others contributed to the success of the event, but the tent looked glorious due to the creative talents of designer Eva Toft, the organization of Dale Gardner and the generosity of the Westport Women's Club and the Westport Community Gardens.

We are already hard at work planning the 2011 Stand Up for Homes with Hope so stay tuned!



Lucy Ackemann & Harvey Skolnick enjoying the party



Amy Babkie, Paula Poundstone, and HwH Board member John Canning



Julian Beresford & Mike Pettee before the show



Share the Pie is Back!

The Conservative Synagogue is holding their annual "Share the Pie" fundraiser, which benefits Homes with Hope. Apple, pecan, and pumpkin pies from Zommick's Bakery will be available for \$20 each.

[CLICK HERE TO ORDER A PIE](#)

First Residents in Fair Street Supportive Housing

It's finally happening! We are moving our first tenants to the newest Homes with Hope permanent supportive housing site at 80 Fair Street in Norwalk. For the staff and our clients, this is a long awaited and especially happy occasion.

Recently, one of our newest tenants was invited to share his story with our board members at our last meeting. He was attended the meeting to give the board his first-hand experience with



The apartments at 80 Fair Street

homelessness and how supportive housing has impacted his life.

His story begins in 2007; he describes a difficult year, which included the break up of his marriage, the loss of his job, and being diagnosed with a serious illness all within a few months of each other. For a time, he was able to manage. He found a roommate and was able to support his living expenses with his fixed disability income. Following a month long hospitalization he learned that his roommate had left their apartment and he would be leaving the hospital with no home to return to.

Needing a roof over his head quickly and a place to recuperate following his hospitalization, he checked into a motel. The expense was tremendous – but without the strength to look for an apartment there were few options. He

recounts buying a muffin at a nearby convenience store every morning and dividing into 4 pieces to eat through out the day. Eventually, his physical condition deteriorated and was hospitalized again.

The staff at the hospital recognized the crisis that had evolved and made a call to the Gillespie Center in anticipation of him leaving the hospital. At Gillespie, he was able to regain his physical health and strength, attend weekly medical appointments to address his medical condition, and start to process the loss he has experienced over the last 3 years with a caring clinician. Having a home ensures that this client and 4 others with similar stories, who will live at Fair Street, will never have to live in a motel eating just one muffin a day ever again.

The Community Kitchen & Breakfast of Champions

As you may be aware, our Community Kitchen serves three meals per day, seven days per week, to anyone that is in need of a meal. Your support of this program is critical in ensuring that we are able to provide a food to anyone that is hungry.

We tend to have more “visibility” in our community as the year-end holidays approach; please know that our Community Kitchen needs y our support every month of the year. You can support this effort with a financial donation or non-perishable food donation, which you can bring to the Gillespie Center at your convenience. We are always open and staffed 24/7.

We want to encourage you to have fun and be creative in recruiting others to join you. Recently, our long-time Community Kitchen supporter Brian Rutter partnered with the Westport



A cereal raising soccer team. Photo by Samantha Rutter

Soccer Association and held a “Breakfast of Champions” cereal drive the weekend of October 2nd.

Brian has been serving dinner at the Gillespie Center for many years and became aware of our continuous need for breakfast cereal. He decided to organize a focused drive at a weekend event that would make it easy for others to become involved, too. He printed a flyer, recruited a few others

to help, and was able to collect over 600 boxes of cereal and breakfast items over just one weekend.

If you would like ideas or information regarding organizing your own food drive – please contact Maryellen Estrada, Gillespie Center Program Director, 203.226.1661 or email mestrada@hwhct.org.



The truck unloading crew. Photo by Samantha Rutter

Volume 25
November 2010

Homes with Hope Professional Staff

Homes with Hope
Administrative Office
49 Richmondville Avenue
Suite 112
Westport, CT 06880

Phone: 203-226-3426
Fax: 203-226-2557



www.hwhct.org

HwH Board of Directors

Officers:

John Walsh, *Chair*
Jeff Scanlan, *Vice Chair*
Bruce Gaylord, *Secretary*
Bruce Hennemuth, *Treasurer*

Directors:

Elena Adams
Brian Burke
John Canning
Linus Cooke
Vince D'Agostino
Cheryl Eldh
Martha Ercole
Mike Hintsa
Jonathan Mathias
Steven Paymer
Patrice Schramm
Hal Shupack
Andrea Terrillion
Doug Watt

Jeffrey Wieser
President & CEO
jwieser@homeswithhopect.org

Audrey Sparre
Vice President & COO
asparre@homeswithhopect.org

Karen Mahar
*Director of Resource
Development*
kmahar@homeswithhopect.org

Tom Reech
Comptroller
treech@homeswithhopect.org

Kirsten Allen
Community Relations Coordinator
kallen@homeswithhopect.org

Maryellen Estrada
Program Director
Gillespie Center & Hoskins' Place
mestrada@homeswithhopect.org

Paris Looney
Program Director
*Bacharach Community &
Case Manager*
Saugatuck Apartments
plooney@homeswithhopect.org

Nicole Heit
Case Manager
Gillespie Center & Hoskins' Place
nheit@homeswithhopect.org

Wendy Epstein
Program Director
WIN
*(Women's Interfaith Network) &
Case Manager*
Westport Rotary Centennial House
wepstein@homeswithhopect.org

Melanie St. Raymond
Case Manager
Fair Street Apartments
mstraymond@homeswithhopect.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