



Homes with Hope

Solving homelessness in our communities through supportive housing

August 2010 Newsletter

Volume 24

Third Annual "Stand Up" Benefit - Sept. 10th at the Levitt!

August 2010

Homes with Hope is holding our signature event, Stand Up for Homes with Hope, on Friday, September 10, 2010 at the Levitt Pavilion for the Performing Arts in Westport. This year's evening of comedy will star Paula Poundstone. Pre-show festivities, which include beverages, food and an auction, starts at 7:00pm with the show beginning at 9:00pm. All of the proceeds from the evening go to support the programs and services for the homeless and those at-risk of homelessness operated by Homes with Hope.



Paula Poundstone

spontaneity. The Boston Globe said, "Paula Poundstone improvises with a crowd like a jazz musician...swinging in unexpected directions, without a plan, without a net."

In 1979 Paula began nurturing her standup comedy talent as part of the Boston comedy

scene, and then moved to San Francisco where she continued to flourish. By the mid-90's, Poundstone had shifted her performances from comedy clubs to performing arts centers and theatres where interactions with the crowd became stuff of legend. Paula's off-kilter sensibility and impeccable timing made her a perfect fit for NPR's *Wait, Wait...Don't Tell Me*, which she joined as a regular seven years ago. Hosted by Peter Sagal, the show is broadcast in 50 states and gives Paula a chance to match wits with some of today's leading pundits.

[Ticket purchase is available online.](#)

[RSVP your attendance on Facebook!](#)

What is HwH up to?

- Stand Up for Homes with Hope: Starring Paula Poundstone
- Legacy with Hope
- Visit from Congressman Jim Himes
- Glowing Results from "Good Neighbor Day"
- 2010 Castles in the Sand pictures
- Tree Dedication for Mark O'Brien
- **FOOD PANTRY EMERGENCY!**
- PRIDE June 2010



Appearing on stage with a stool, a microphone, and a can of Diet Pepsi, Paula Poundstone is famous for her razor-sharp wit and

LegacywithHope



Troy Fancher celebrates Legacy with Hope

Homes with Hope has announced that Troy Fancher, a resident of Southport and a former Board Chair of the agency, has become the first member of HwH's new Planned Giving Program known as Legacy with Hope.

Since serving on the Board in the mid 1990s, Troy has remained a regular supporter of the organization. "I am still committed to the mission of serving the homeless population of lower Fairfield County. So

while in the process of estate planning I was presented with the unexpected opportunity to include Homes with Hope in my will. I thought, 'why not?' I've always considered them family." "This simple act," Troy confides, "is a small but personal way of maintaining a legacy to a group of people dedicated to helping others."

"I greatly enjoyed my time on the board of Homes with Hope because I always got back more than I gave," said Fancher. "What better way to help continue that activity and acknowledge the service that the organization has been providing to the most underserved population in our community for the past 25 years. I love the idea of finding another way to help

ensure the future health of this great organization."

Jeff Wieser, the new President and CEO of Homes with Hope, saluted the vision of Troy. "I have had the pleasure of knowing Troy and his commitment to Homes with Hope for the past 16 years. This is a wonderful way to carry on a level of future financial support and encourage our staff and supporters by showing the depth of the community's backing of HwH."

Anyone interested in supporting Homes with Hope in this important endeavor should contact Jeff Wieser at 203.226.3426 ext. 14 or jwieser@homeswithhope.org.

A Visit from Congressman Himes

It is always validating to have our work recognized, but it was especially gratifying recently when Congressman Jim Himes asked to take a tour of our supportive housing facilities. We met to fulfill that request on June 1st when Congressman Himes and a member of his staff, Amy Lappos, visited our Saugatuck Apartments and Westport Rotary Centennial House. Diane Randall, Executive Director of the CT Partnership for Strong Communities and her colleague, Mike Hanley, also joined in the tour and discussed the successful way in which Homes with Hope has tackled the expanding need for permanent supportive housing, in a

suburban setting. Himes expressed his support for addressing the problem and took note of HwH's small dependence on government grants (less than 20%) to meet its budget. He also noted his desire that more suburban communities would create programs like ours to take care of the needs of their own populations, a solution that would greatly reduce the burden on the big cities – in his district and across the nation.

Following the tour and compelling discussion, Himes visited the Community Kitchen at the Gillespie Center where lunch and dinner are served daily. He spoke with a number

of Gillespie clients to try and better understand those issues most affecting them.

Not to be accused of undue partisanship, we have also responded to a request for a tour of our facilities with State Senator Dan Debicella, Himes' Republican opponent in the November Congressional race. Stay tuned!



Congressman Jim Himes

Glowing Results from “Good Neighbor Day”

Good Neighbor Day, sponsored by Westport Wash & Wax – located at 786 Post Road East, was held on June 25th. This beautiful and sunny Friday, was a busy day at the car wash and patrons were greeted by Homes with Hope staff and board members. All of the day's revenue was donated to Homes with Hope to provide support for our programs and services.

Good Neighbor Day was established in 2001 by Scott Tiefenthaler and his wife Laila who wanted to lend their support to

a local nonprofit organization that was making a difference; Homes with Hope was that organization. Partners Scott and Craig Tienfenthaler have carried on the tradition every year since then. This year Westport Wash & Wax generously donated \$5,200 from the event.

A very special thank you goes to Amelie Babkie, of Babkie Graphic and Web Design for donating her talent for graphic arts and designing all of the signage and advertisements for this year's event. [Click here to learn more about Amy's work.](#)



Wash & Wax owners Craig, Scott, and Laila Tiefenthaler presenting the check to Homes with Hope President, Jeff Wieser and Vice President, Audrey Sparre

Tree Dedication for Mark O'Brien

On June 1, 2010, a young cherry tree was dedicated in memory of one of our long-time residents at Saugatuck Apartments, Mark O'Brien, who died suddenly from a heart attack. Many Saugatuck Apartments residents attended the outdoor gathering around the tree on the property. The ceremony was officiated by the Rev.



The cherry tree outside Saugatuck Apartments

Dr. Peter R. Powell, former President of Homes with Hope and an Episcopal priest. Pete had known Mark for many years, even before he moved into the apartment he shared with his wife on Saugatuck Avenue. Pete offered words of comfort in remembrance and dedicated the tree in Mark's memory with prayers for the roots to grow strong and deep. He gave the written dedication to Mark's wife as a keepsake.

Mark came to Saugatuck Apartments in late 1999. He was a carpenter,

handyman, avid gardener and he took great pride in his apartment. While Mark suffered hardships in his life, he was a good neighbor and a helpful tenant. He is greatly missed by the community there and the tree is a wonderful symbol of his life. He is deeply missed.



Mark O'Brien

Pictures from the 9th Annual Castles in the Sand



The judges deliberate.



The crowd awaits results.



A golden shovel award! (Castles Lobster in the background)



Another winning family!

Food Pantry Emergency!

You can help out by bringing any of the items listed to our Food Pantry at 45 Jesup Rd in Westport or by stopping by the Sunrise Rotary's food drive this Saturday, August 21st at the Stop & Shop at 1790 Post Rd E in Westport from 10 am until 4 pm.

The Gillespie Center Pantry is unusually low on food at this time and it's affecting our ability support the people that come to us. While it does not seem like much, every little bit adds up when money is tight.

The top 5 most needed items are pasta sauce, any kind of canned protein (like tuna, corned beef, ham, chicken), cereal or instant oatmeal, soup that contains meat (or chili) and canned fruit. Any of the following items would be helpful:

- Boxed complete Meals (ie; Hamburger, Chicken, Tuna Helper)
- Peanut Butter,
- Canned Tuna and other canned meat products (ham, turkey, Spam)
- Instant Oatmeal – any variety
- Salad Dressing – Any variety
- Powdered milk
- Powdered drink mix
- Jarred pasta sauce—any variety

- Jelly/Jam
- Soups that contain meat
- Canned foods that contain meat: beef stew, chili, etc.
- Chef Boyardee-type full meals
- Cold Breakfast Cereal: any variety
- Canned Fruit
- Crackers
- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Mayonnaise
- Salt/pepper
- Coffee/tea (regular and decaf)
- Grated Cheese
- Powdered non-dairy creamer
- Sugar

PRIDE June 2010

This session of our PRIDE Program ran for three weeks, with graduation taking place on June 11, 2010. As always, the group members had varied work histories/ experiences and some difficulties. The feedback from the group was positive, and the growth of those who were able to complete the program was visible.



PRIDE graduation cake

This was a diverse, interactive and enjoyable group, and they learned quite a bit from one another. The group members developed positive working relationships and their comments are telling:

“It has been motivating to me to be more positive. I feel more comfortable interviewing and discussing the gap in my resume.”

Another client said, “the program is uplifting, inspiring and leaves me in an optimistic frame of mind.”

“PRIDE is a great help for discovering the potential that I never knew I had”.

For the first time, the scheduling of the next PRIDE session is unknown. Because of funding cutbacks, we were able to budget just 2 sessions

this year. While we continue to look for sources of funding to maintain the final two programs for this year, those sessions appear to be in jeopardy. The vision of Homes with Hope is to end chronic homelessness in our community by providing facilities and supportive services in a structured environment that ultimately lead to self-sufficiency. PRIDE has been an integral part of our spectrum of services. We are hopeful that this essential program will again receive support and that it will continue to be a critical component in the success of our clients at Homes with Hope.



A PRIDE graduate with her certificate and Program Director Nancy Selikoff

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Visit us online!

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Housing Programs

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Phil Theoharides
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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

Solving homelessness in our communities through supportive housing