



**HOMES** *with* **HOPE**

*Dedicated to Ending Homelessness in Fairfield County*



**Gillespie Center & Hoskins Place, Westport**

“Thank you with all my heart. I sincerely appreciate everything you have done for me and my family. You remind me to stay strong and keep my faith that good people are still around. I am so grateful for all you did to ensure my safety and what was best for my children. Thanks for treating me like a person and for being extra compassionate.”

- a Homes with Hope client

**ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

## A MESSAGE FROM HELEN McALINDEN, PRESIDENT & CEO

### HOMELESSNESS: THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF PREVENTION SERVICES

Following the rollercoaster years of 2020 and 2021, we started 2022 with renewed optimism. However, it soon became apparent that a 56% increase in demand for our 2-1-1 homeless response system, fueled by the lack of affordable housing in Connecticut, was our next hurdle. Eviction rates for Connecticut's largest cities—Bridgeport, Hartford, and New Haven—are among the highest in the nation, and housing affordability in Connecticut is among the lowest in the United States.

In response to a growing population requiring prevention services—and thanks to your support and a grant from the Department of Housing—Homes with Hope opened a new office in Norwalk that solely provides Diversion Services. This program helps prevent clients from entering the homeless system by collaborating with them to identify immediate, alternative housing. We have hired exceptional staff dedicated to this program's success (see page 6 for more details).

Additionally, we continue to move ahead with planned renovations of the Gillespie Center & Hoskins Place Emergency Shelter, the Food Pantry, and Project Return (see page 7). Once again, the support of the Town of Westport, the Department of Housing, and all our generous donors have enabled us to make these improvements.

Amid our challenges, I am so grateful to Homes with Hope's brilliant employees. We have a team of professional individuals to provide essential services to ensure everyone served by Homes with Hope is treated with dignity and respect.

To honor our work, please take a few minutes to read through our Annual Report. As you do, you will see how your support and commitment to our mission will allow us to create lasting change in 2023 and beyond.

Warm regards,



Helen McAlinden  
President and CEO



## A MESSAGE FROM JOHN WALSH, BOARD CHAIR



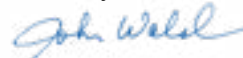
The past few tumultuous years have challenged us all. From the ravages of COVID-19 to the budget busting pain of inflation, our lives have been upended and changed dramatically. Imagine being homeless or at risk of homelessness during these times, not knowing if you had a place to sleep or where your next meal would come from.

Fortunately, in our community, there is a safety net under the umbrella of Homes with Hope to provide shelter and food for the homeless and those dealing with food insecurity. For almost 40 years, Homes with Hope, with incredible support from the Town of Westport, local houses of worship, area businesses, and the community at large, have come together in a broad-based collaboration to help our neighbors impacted by the trauma of homelessness.

In 2022, Homes with Hope provided shelter for nearly 150 individuals including 15 children. We served over 18,000 meals from the Community Kitchen and helped to feed over 400 people through our Food Pantry. Our programs are staffed with remarkably dedicated professionals who work tirelessly with our clientele to help them navigate their challenges...hopefully leading them to self-sufficiency and breaking the cycle of homelessness.

In our nearly 4 decades, Homes with Hope has become part of the fabric of our community. We are enormously grateful for your continued generosity, and that you share our commitment that a caring community supports and helps its neighbors in need.

Sincerely,



John Walsh  
Board Chair



#### OFFICERS:

JOHN WALSH, Chair  
JENNIFER FERRANTE, Vice Chair  
BRUCE HENNEMUTH, Treasurer  
REBECCA MARTIN, Secretary

#### DIRECTORS:

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LAUREN SOLOFF  
KATE WEBER  
CHAN WHEELER  
RALPH YEARWOOD

# BY THE NUMBERS

## FINANCIALS

Revenues	2021	2022
Private	2,690,632	2,731,666
Government	840,551	887,547
Other	564,284	407,221
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>4,095,467</b>	<b>4,026,434</b>

Total private contributions from fundraising and in-kind contributions increased by 1.5% in 2022 in support of our positive impact on homelessness, diversion, supportive housing and education.

Expenses	2021	2022
Program	3,052,800	3,012,702
Management	293,000	279,508
Fundraising	354,419	486,090
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>3,700,219</b>	<b>3,778,300</b>

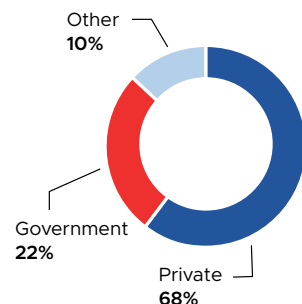
Homes with Hope's increased operating efficiency has enabled more funding each year to go directly to our programs and community served.

Through technology enhancements, process improvements and operating efficiency, over 80% of all funding is spent directly on services for our clients.

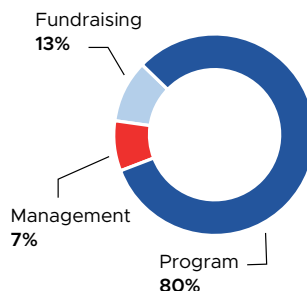
Assets	Current Assets	Net Assets
Beginning	1,767,971	3,054,996
Ending	1,804,809	3,303,130

Year end 2022 shows an increase in total current assets of 2% reflecting the positive trend in individual and private donations and Homes with Hope's strong liquidity position.

PERCENT OF TOTAL REVENUE BY SECTOR



EXPENSE ALLOCATION



**TO DONATE NOW,  
PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE  
WITH YOUR PHONE'S CAMERA.**

# 2022 METRICS

SERVED **841** INDIVIDUALS OR HOUSEHOLDS\*



**80**

Men, Women, and Children living in Homes with Hope's Permanent Supportive Housing



**63**

Homeless Men and Women sheltered at The Gillespie Center & Hoskins Place. The Community Kitchen provided 18,000 meals to clients & neighbors in need



**408**

Households received groceries through the Food Pantry, which is generously supported by the local community



**121**

Youth and Young Women supported by our Youth Academic and Personal Growth Programs



**41**

Homeless Individuals and Youth placed through Rapid Re-Housing and YHDP



**128**

Households received Diversion Services that helped identify immediate alternative housing arrangements to avoid homelessness

\*Some clients benefit from multiple Homes with Hope programs and services. 2022 data.



## THE GILLESPIE CENTER & HOSKINS PLACE



**The Gillespie Center** is Homes with Hope's 15-bed emergency shelter for single men. **Hoskins Place**, located in the same building, is our 4-bed emergency shelter for single women. These 24-hour facilities provide Case Management Services and utilize a Housing First service model to assist shelter residents with ending their homelessness.



Two food programs are located at the shelter. **The Community Kitchen** is supported by a very generous and devoted community of volunteers who provide meals 365 days a year. **The Food Pantry**, also supported and maintained by our dedicated community, distributes non-perishable food to all those in need.



Our clients' stories are often a testament to the transformative power of community and support that Homes with Hope provides. This is especially true for one such client, Mary, who found herself alone on the streets and turning to drugs to cope. Living in constant survival mode, Mary saw no point in planning for the future. But then, she found a safe space at the Gillespie Center & Hoskins Place.



**Juliana Schwartz**, MS, Program Director Gillespie Center/Hoskins Place and **Marvin Taylor**, Case Manager, Gillespie Center/Hoskins Place

"I didn't have resources. I didn't have support. I grew up in the system and come from a family of addicts." Mary recalled. "Coming here, I was provided a sanctuary to lay these mannerisms to rest. Homes with Hope empowered me economically. "That is the way to truly impact the culture in a way that the mentality changes, such as mine did."

At the Gillespie Center, Mary was surprised to find that there were others who cared and were concerned for her, like Juliana and Marvin, our wonderful Homes with Hope staff. Even when Marvin confronted Mary about her drug use, she felt seen and believed in rather than judged.

"The support and patience I received was remarkably surprising to me, Mary said. I thought that I should have been kicked out many times for being disrespectful, but Juliana and Marvin always maintained their composure. They addressed me personally from a place of concern."

As Mary found the courage to reach out for more support, she found that she was given more opportunities and resources to help her on her journey. Mary's story is a powerful reminder that even in the darkest of circumstances, there is hope for change and transformation when individuals have access to support, resources, and the caring community that Homes with Hope provides its clients.

### HOMES WITH HOPE'S PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING & EMERGENCY SHELTER LOCATIONS





# EDUCATION AND PERSONAL GROWTH

## HEAL

**The HEAL Community Service Program** provides teenage students with a nurturing environment in which they feel safe to explore the emotions and habits of themselves and others while being part of the greater good through community service projects designed by HEAL members. The WHS HEAL group created a new activity: “Senior Tech Day,” inviting those from the Senior Center to partner with a student to work through a computer or phone “tech” issue. The number of seniors taking advantage of this effort has increased each month! Our annual “Women in Leadership Talks” welcomed four esteemed panelists for an afternoon discussion on life’s challenges and what it means to be a good leader. This event has proven essential and impactful for our young HEAL members. HEAL continues to help establish a sense of belonging, build self-confidence, and strengthen personal growth for youth in our area. HEAL currently has six groups: Bridgeport (2), Norwalk (2), Westport (1), and Wilton (1).



## HwHMI

Individual mentees in the **Mentoring Initiative Program** are matched to appropriate mentees from the community to help with life’s many struggles. Current mentees register for nine months of one-on-one mentoring, a six week WE HEAL (Women’s Empowerment) group session in the fall and spring and/or a combination of all three. Mentees can exercise personal choice in the level of support they desire and have found a sense of control and responsibility through their involvement. Mentoring relationships have remained stable, and the WE HEAL groups have gathered and supported each other in areas of personal growth and with efforts to actualize individual goals.



## ASAP



Homes with Hope’s **After School Academic Program (ASAP)** is a site-based after-school program for children and teens who live in Homes with Hope’s Supportive Housing. The goal is to provide consistent structure, positive role models, academic support, and enrichment activities to help students develop the skills they need to be successful at school and in their personal lives.

For the 2022-23 school year, we welcomed four new student participants and more than ten new students and adult volunteers. The increased number of volunteers has been critical in meeting the needs—and energy level—of this year’s young group, with 8 of 10 participants in elementary school, and six of the children in grades K-2. We are thrilled to be able to help so many of Homes with Hope’s children get their academic careers off to a strong start! On the other end of the spectrum, one former student is thriving at JM Wright Technical High School, concentrating on automotive repair and his academic classes. Last but certainly not least, in the spring of 2023, we celebrated the Staples High School graduation of one of our ASAP students who currently volunteers with the program.



## HOUSING PROGRAMS



### PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Our dedicated Case Managers assist chronically homeless individuals living with mental illness. Their support has helped our 52 households access needed services to remain independent and stably housed. Through referrals to medical mental health, substance abuse, education and employment counseling, we have been thrilled to witness many residents grow and thrive.



**Powell Place** – Homes with Hope's original location providing Supportive Housing



### RAPID REHOUSING

**Rapid Rehousing** involves a two-pronged approach to ending homelessness. Financial assistance plus Case Management creates an opportunity for many individuals and families to end their homelessness quickly. Short-term Case Management services connect these clients to needed resources, helping them successfully maintain their housing into the future. Two of our three RRH Case Managers work exclusively with young adults (aged 18-24).

*I want to thank you for helping me find an affordable, safe apartment for me and my son. I sincerely appreciate the time and dedication you spent working with my case. This is a new chapter in my life, and thanks to wonderful people like you and Homes with Hope I'm now able to call a place home. From the moment you introduced yourself as my case manager, you made sure to check up on me weekly. You provided me with helpful resources and website links to apply for apartments. You helped me call Eversource to set up my gas and electric utilities and encouraged me to practice my independence skills. I cannot thank you and Homes with Hope enough! You are the best case manager Tykeisha!*



### DIVERSION

**Diversion** is a strategy designed to collaborate with clients to identify immediate, alternative housing options to divert them from entering the shelter system.

A severe lack of affordable housing in Fairfield County is the primary cause of the increase in homelessness. To increase our support for this growing population we've recently opened a new office in Norwalk dedicated to Diversion Services. These services are designed to prevent clients from entering the shelter system by collaborating with them to identify immediate, alternative housing. We have hired wonderful new staff, including a social worker, to oversee this work. Homes with Hope's staff make every effort to divert clients to other housing solutions at their first contact with the homeless response system. We are very proud of this accomplishment and excited to have an extra presence to support the homeless system in Norwalk.



**Jacques Richeme**, Diversion Specialist and **Carmen Ayala**, MSW-Director of Diversion Services and Supported Housing

**Without family support, it is hard to know who to trust.**

After losing her housing, things were suddenly so hard that Debra struggled to make it to work and attend classes. She did not want anyone to know. Not eating or sleeping properly, it was exceedingly difficult living in her car. Debra had been doing all she could to keep going, yet her health and depression were getting worse. She called 211/Infoline for help and was connected to a Diversion Specialist who provided her with information to meet her basic needs and a referral to a transitional program. Debra was so grateful that she could finally get a good night's sleep and continue working on her goals.

## PROJECT RETURN AT SUSIE'S HOUSE 2023 PROGRAM UPGRADE



Project Return at Susie's House: 2023 Upgrade to a Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Model. Project Return at Susie's House is undergoing building improvements and program modifications. When completed, the home will be a fully integrated Congregate Housing Program. Focused solely on the needs of homeless women, the program will provide a safe and supportive environment in which residents will embark on individual paths toward self-sufficiency. The program will offer a minimum one-year lease with case management services for six women. The program will prioritize homeless young women aged 18 to 24.

The home will include six en-suite bedrooms with a communal kitchen and living space. Residents will stay in the program for at least one year, allowing them to develop and implement their goals with the guidance of a case manager, leading them to establish more self-sufficient, successful lives.

## UPGRADE OF GILLESPIE CENTER & HOSKINS PLACE AND THE FOOD PANTRY

Our second renovation project will be at the Gillespie Center & Hoskins Place Homeless Shelters and Food Pantry. The State of CT awarded Homes with Hope \$1M to renovate the Pantry & Emergency Shelters.

The renovated pantry will be a larger, more accessible facility and provide an expanded assortment of food, including fresh items such as eggs and milk. The Pantry and Community Kitchen will be temporarily relocated to allow for the renovations.

Essential upgrades to the shelter will also be completed. Renovations will include a new HVAC system and compliance with ADA standards.



## HwH STAFF



### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

**HELEN MCALINDEN** - President and CEO  
**PARIS LOONEY, LMSW** - Vice President and COO  
**JACQUELINE HOGAN** - Chief Financial Officer  
**MAUREEN LIEBERGALL** - Director of Community Relations  
**KATIE FITZMAURICE** - Grant Writer/Director of Resource Development  
**KATHARINE MURRAY** - Marketing Manger  
**YOLANDA XOCHITECATL TLAHUETL** - Finance Assistant

### FULL-TIME PROGRAM STAFF

**LYNN ABRAMSON, MA, Ed.** - Program Director, ASAP  
**JENNIFER LYN AMON, BS** - Program Director, HEAL & Mentoring Initiative  
**CARMEN AYALA, MSW** - Director of Diversion Services and Supported Housing  
**SHON'TEL CAMPBELL, BA** - Case Manager, Young Adult Rapid Re-Housing  
**WENDY EPSTEIN, LCSW** - Director of Supportive Housing  
**MICHAEL GREEN, CAC, LADC** - Case Manager, Young Adult Rapid Re-Housing  
**JOANN HUGHES, MSW** - Case Manager, Supportive Housing  
**IVELISSE MELENDEZ, BA** - Case Manager, Supportive Housing  
**TYKEISHA MENDEZ** - Case Manager, Rapid Re-Housing  
**JESSICA POLLOCK** - Overnight Supervisor  
**JAQUES RICHEME** - Diversion Specialist  
**JULIANA SCHWARTZ, MS** - Program Director Gillespie Center/Hoskins Place  
**MARVIN TAYLOR** - Case Manager, Gillespie Center/Hoskins' Place  
**LAUREN WACHNICKI, MSW** - Case Manager, Supportive Housing

### PART-TIME PROGRAM STAFF

**RICHARD FRANK** - Shift Supervisor  
**STEPHEN JAMES** - Shift Assistant  
**ANTWAYN RIGGS** - Shift Assistant  
**EMILY SCHRECK** - Community Coordinator  
**KHALIF VALBRUN** - Shift Supervisor  
**MICHELLE VALBURN** - Shift Supervisor  
**PATRICIA WILSON** - Shift Supervisor



**Save the Date**



An Evening of  
Comedy with  
**Roy Wood Jr.**



**Saturday, October 14, 2023**  
Quick Center for the Arts  
200 Barlow Road, Fairfield

