

Board of Directors

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Supporting Connecticut's Homeless

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The Connection Names New CEO

Lisa DeMatteis-Lepore, who previously served as the agency's Chief Operating Officer and Interim CEO, has more than 25 years of service in all areas of the agency and is an accomplished, results-oriented leader with proven success in the strategic development and growth to the organization. She was the force behind the growth of the agency's Family Support Services, which comprises the largest service sector of The Connection.

The Connection's Leadership Team

Lisa DeMatteis-Lepore, Chief Executive Officer

Thomas Forschner, MBA, CPA, Chief Financial Officer

Lynn Spencer, Vice President of Human Resources and Risk Management

Charles Barber, MFA, Director of Grant Writing and Special Projects Director of The Connection Institute for Innovative Practice®

Beth Connor, MBA, Director of Communications and Fund Development

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Sue Phillips, JD, MA, Director of Quality Improvement

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HOMELESSNESS: A HUMAN TRAGEDY

DEAR FRIENDS,

Homelessness is a continuing problem in our society, and many see only what's on the surface — a person begging for spare change or sleeping in a doorway. In reality, most people who are homeless do not live on the streets. Many individuals, especially homeless families, are hidden from our view; they live doubled up in apartments or in emergency shelters or transitional housing.

In Connecticut, on a single night in January 2016, nearly 4000 homeless people were found during the Point-in-Time Homeless count, coordinated by the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness as part of a national effort to determine the nature and extent of homelessness in our state and nation. Eight hundred thirty-one of those people were children.

For the majority of those who experience homelessness, it's a once-in-a-lifetime event. For these individuals, homelessness is often brought on by a sudden loss of income or other destabilizing event in their lives. Many others are homeless because the disparity between housing costs and their minimum wage jobs or public support, combined with lack of affordable transportation, and affordable housing options make it impossible for them to make ends meet. About one-third of the homeless population is chronically homeless. These men, women, youth — and sometimes children — are the most intense users of emergency shelters and services and often have chronic conditions, like mental illness, substance abuse, physical disability, or chronic medical condition that makes it difficult for them to stay housed or maintain employment. Together, and through our community partners, Connecticut has made great strides in housing chronically homeless individuals, but there's more work to be done.

The Connection offers proven solutions to the problems of homelessness. Our program staff work with individuals to find and maintain safe, stable housing, a necessary first step toward a successful future. Our impact is statewide and has positively changed many lives. Please read on to learn about the ways The Connection reaches out to people experiencing homelessness and how we teach them the skills and the tools to become and remain successfully housed.

Thank you for your support of The Connection.

Sincerely,

Gloster Aaron, PhD BOARD CHAIR, THE CONNECTION, INC.

Stephen Angle, PhD
BOARD CHAIR, THE CONNECTION FUND, INC.

THE CONNECTION'S MISSION
BUILDING SAFE, HEALTHY, CARING COMMUNITIES AND
INSPIRING PEOPLE TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL
AS PRODUCTIVE AND VALUED CITIZENS.

OUR IMPACT
HAVING A PLACE TO CALL HOME SATISFIES A BASIC NEED
FOR PEOPLE TO FEEL SAFE AND SECURE SO THEY ARE ABLE
TO WORK ON THEIR LIFE ISSUES. PROFILED BELOW ARE
SOME OF THE CONNECTION'S 42 PROGRAMS THAT HELP
PEOPLE REGAIN SECURITY OUT OF HOMELESSNESS.

THE START PROGRAM

The Start Program provides homeless youth ages 16–24 with emergency housing, temporary rental assistance, and intensive support services aimed at assisting the youth in transitioning toward safe, stable housing and self-sufficiency.

PROGRAM SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Street outreach services for homeless youth aged 16-24 in the Hartford area
- Host home options for homeless youth under the age of 18 in the Hartford area
- Emergency housing apartments for youth ages 18–24 for a stay of up to 60 days in the Hartford area
- Temporary housing rental assistance for up to 2 years for youth aged 18-24 across the state
- Intensive case management services
- Financial literacy skills development
- Life skills development
- Educational/vocational support
- Referrals, advocacy, crisis intervention and counseling services

PROFILE:

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR FAMILIES®

The Supportive Housing for Families® program provides families served by the Connecticut Department of Children and Families with support services and access to safe, quality, affordable and permanent housing.

Our mission is to help families thrive by finding homes in safe, nurturing neighborhoods, achieving economic independence, developing healthy relationships, and providing their children with a stable and caring home environment.

Supportive Housing for Families® is located throughout the state, with offices in New Haven, Groton, Middletown, Hartford, Waterbury, Torrington, Danbury and Bridgeport. The program helps families become reunited with children who have been placed in foster care, or prevents the placement of children in foster care by providing adequate housing.

The Intensive Supportive Housing for Families Program (ISHF) is a 5-year initiative to develop, implement, and study the effectiveness of a supportive housing program for families who come to the attention of the child welfare system due to severe housing issues and high service needs.



INTENSIVE SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR FAMILIES (ISHF) HAS SHOWN THAT

460/0

OF CLIENTS WERE ABLE TO OBTAIN
NEW EMPLOYMENT AS A RESULT OF
THE VOCATIONAL SERVICES MADE
AVAILABLE TO THEM IN THE PROGRAM.

EDDY SHELTER

The Eddy Shelter is an emergency homeless shelter for single adult men and women in Middlesex County. The Shelter provides leadership in identifying and promoting innovative solutions to ending homelessness, while allowing for each individual's unique capability. We accomplish this by providing Shelter guests with a warm bed and hot shower, breakfast, and case management services to help with securing access to health care, entitlements such as social security, placing names on waiting lists for transitional/permanent housing, and assistance with accessing vocational and educational programs. These supports help ensure that they have the skills and resources needed to maintain their independence when they reintegrate into the community.

Located on the grounds of Connecticut Valley Hospital in Middletown, the Eddy Shelter now has the ability to house 30 adults. The number of beds increases during the winter to ensure that no one who seeks shelter during the coldest months of the year is turned away. The shelter is involved with the Reaching Home campaign, a statewide initiative dedicated to ending homelessness in Connecticut by creating 10,000 units of supportive housing over the next 10 years.



THE EDDY SHELTER SERVED



GUESTS IN FISCAL YEAR 2016.

PROFILE: REACH

The REACH (Re-Entry Assisted Community Housing) program provides scattered site supportive housing for individuals re-entering the community from the correctional system. It is designed to address the needs of individuals in the correctional system who are eligible for parole but unable to locate appropriate housing. The intent of the program is to assist individuals in successfully re-entering the community and to provide the supports necessary for independent living. REACH provides scattered site apartments that are subsidized based on the tenant's income. Participants are provided with intensive case management and have an estimated length of stay of four to six months.

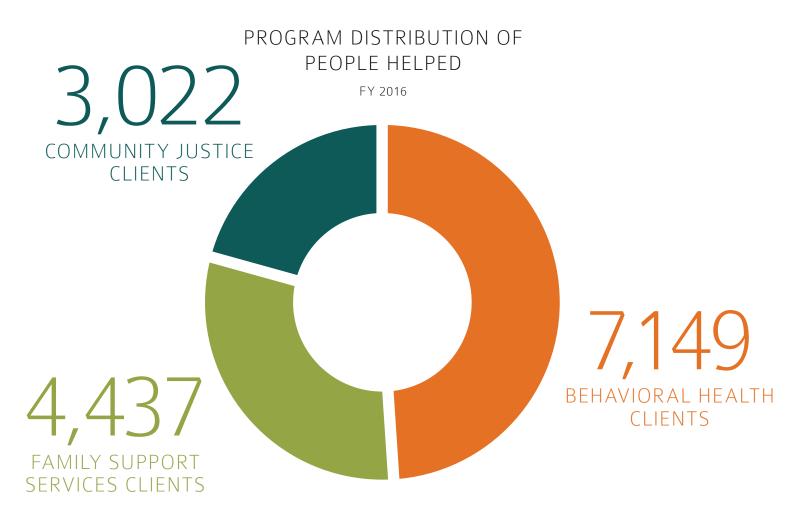
PROFILE: OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

The Outreach and Engagement program is an interagency endeavor in New Haven that includes The Connection, Columbus House, Inc., Hill Health Corporation, and Marrakech Behavioral Health Services. This multi-agency team provides a range of community-based services to homeless adults who are not engaged with needed services.

The program serves homeless adults, ages 18 and older, with serious mental illness and/or chronic substance use issues who are currently not engaged in treatment and other services, or who have a history of being discharged from treatment for non-compliance. Outreach activities serve to identify potential clients and screen for program eligibility. The ultimate goal of the Outreach and Engagement program is to transfer clients to traditional, long-term services and/or natural supports.

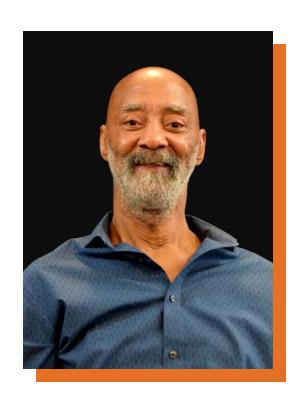
A variety of case management services are provided according to the client's ability to identify needs and accept services. Such services include procuring basic needs, efforts to reduce potential harm to the individual, both imminent and chronic, and referral and linkage to various needed services.

This past year, The Connection's staff assisted approximately 14,600 people people throughout Connecticut who have experienced trauma in their lives and are struggling with substance use, mental illness, homelessness, and community justice issues. In addition, through The Connection's Institute for Innovative Practice®, we connect research to practice to better serve our clients, raise awareness of societal issues, and promote sound public policy.



AS WE ENCOURAGE INTEGRATED CARE, MANY OF OUR CLIENTS RECEIVE ASSISTANCE FROM MORE THAN ONE CONNECTION PROGRAM OR SERVICE

HOUSED HEROES: RENEWED HOPE FOR TOMORROW'S CHALLENGES



An Award-Winning Peer Advocate and Leader

Willie Thomas Miller, a resident of the Milestone Apartments program in Bridgeport, is an extraordinary man with a tough past and an outstanding vision for a productive, positive future. Willie is a client of The Connection's Permanent Supportive Housing Program at Milestone, where he is an inspiration to staff and other residents.

In early April he received word that he will be one of two individuals in the state to be honored at the Reaching Home Campaign's annual awards dinner in June. There, Willie will receive the Carol Walter Supportive Housing Tenant Award, given each year to two supportive housing tenants in the state who show commitment to supportive housing advocacy, leadership, and an effort to make their community a better place.

Willie's path to Milestone has been long and difficult. Willie lost his mother when he was just 14 years old. After she died, he stopped going to school and lost interest in many of the things that had helped ground him and kept him engaged with his world. He began drinking, using and dealing drugs, and engaging in other activities that he is not proud of today.

Because of his dealing and addictions, Willie spent many years on the streets and many more years in prison—his longest prison term lasted more than 18 years.

I spent 56 years of my life in addiction... I missed out on an awful lot.

In spite of his many mistakes, Willie was lucky—he had a wonderful wife who was his grounding source. Unfortunately, after she passed away in 2005, Willie again lost his bearings, and again became homeless. When his daughters complained that he hadn't made any effort to see them, even though he was literally right around the corner, he knew something had to change.

I was hiding in a box trying to stay out of the elements... That's not the way you want to live. It's not normal. I got to the point that I was fed up — I was tired of being tired. But I didn't know how to ask for help.

Willie reached out to 211 and was referred to the Homeless Outreach Team for an appointment. He was put in touch with Helen McAlinden at Milestone. At the time, Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust and The Connection were accepting applications for the Milestone Apartment Building, which opened its doors in the spring of 2016. Willie became the program's first resident.

Once Willie moved into his new home, he began investing his time and energy in helping himself do better, as well as helping others. Willie went through drug rehab four times before moving to Milestone, but always had difficulty maintaining his sobriety because he had no home to return to. His ability to remain clean and sober came in August 2016, when he graduated from the inpatient substance abuse program at Lebanon Pines and returned home—to Milestone.



A Safe Foundation for a Life Rebuilt

Heather, a client in The Connection's REACH (Re-Entry Assisted Community Housing) program in New Britain, grew up as one of seven children in upstate New York. Her parents divorced when she was 11, but because she had a very close relationship with her father, she chose to live with him in Cornwall, Connecticut.

Heather's father moved back to New York. But Heather wanted to complete her remaining two years in high school in Connecticut. At just 16 years of age, she completed the necessary legal steps to remain in Connecticut independently while continuing her studies. She found a job working evenings and began living with a couple she met through work, attending regular high school classes during the day. During this time she met her ex-husband, and became pregnant with her older daughter, who was born when she was 18. Heather completed a Dental Assistant training program at Tunxis Community College in 1997 and went on to work as a dental assistant while caring for their young family.

After her twins were born in 2003, Heather had to have a medical procedure. Following her surgery, she was given prescription pain medication and quickly became addicted. Heather sought treatment to get off the pain medication and was treated with Suboxone, a medication used to help provide relief from narcotics additions, but that is itself highly addictive. She remained on Suboxone until 2011, when her father passed away. The loss and disruption to her life resulted in a series of unfortunate choices related to her addiction and ultimately to incarceration at York Correctional Institute in Niantic for two-and-a-half years.

When Heather left the corrections system in late 2015, she initially returned to Salisbury but soon she began to struggle. Her housing options were impractical and unstable and Heather didn't want to fall back into old habits. Heather decided to make the call for help. Her parole officer connected her with the REACH program where an apartment in New Britain had just opened up.

(The program) has been really beneficial for me. I've been able to sort through my own life and be a part of my children's lives too.

An essential part of the rebuilding Heather is doing involves an Automotive Technology program at Porter and Chester Institute in Rocky Hill. "I have passion for cars," Heather says. "I always did that with my dad." She expects to finish her studies in October of 2017 and become employed in the field of automotive repair.

Heather graduated from the REACH program in the summer of 2016. She credits the program for supporting her to continue to make positive adjustments to the path she is now on, rather than to fall back into familiar but unhealthy ways.

ENDING HOMELESSNESS: THE CONNECTION FUND AND SAINT MARY PLACE



THE CONNECTION FUND, THE DIVISION OF THE CONNECTION THAT DEVELOPS STATEWIDE INNOVATIVE HOUSING SOLUTIONS AND ALLOWS THE CONNECTION TO OWN A RANGE OF FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT, IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE ITS CURRENT HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

SAINT MARY PLACE IS THE ADAPTIVE REUSE OF THE HISTORICAL SAINT MARY STAR OF THE SEA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ESTABLISHED IN DOWNTOWN NEW LONDON IN 1892. THE SCHOOL BUILDING NO LONGER SERVES ITS INTENDED PURPOSE AND HAS REMAINED VACANT FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS.

The Church's mission is to reuse the school building for affordable housing and retain the significant historical attributes of the building for the community. The design proposes the renovation of the historic elementary school into 20 units of mixed-income housing. There will be large community spaces for the tenants including laundry and mail facilities as well as on-site case management services and office space for the property manager.

Funding for this project is provided by the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston; Connecticut Department of Housing; Connecticut Housing Finance Authority Tax Exempt Bonds; National Development Council Low Income Housing Tax Credit Equity; and Federal and State Historical Tax Credits.

Development partners include The Connection Fund; Enfield Builders, Inc.; Housing Enterprises, Inc.; Patriquin Architects; and DeMarco Management Co.

Construction on the project will begin in the summer of 2017.

UPDATES FROM THE CONNECTION INSTITUTE FOR INNOVATIVE PRACTICE®

The Connection Institute for Innovative Practice® is one of the service areas of the organization, along with Community Justice, Behavioral Health, and Family Support Services. The goal of the Institute is to link research to practice in all of the agency's programs, with a view to improving services by learning what works best, and what doesn't work, for our clients.

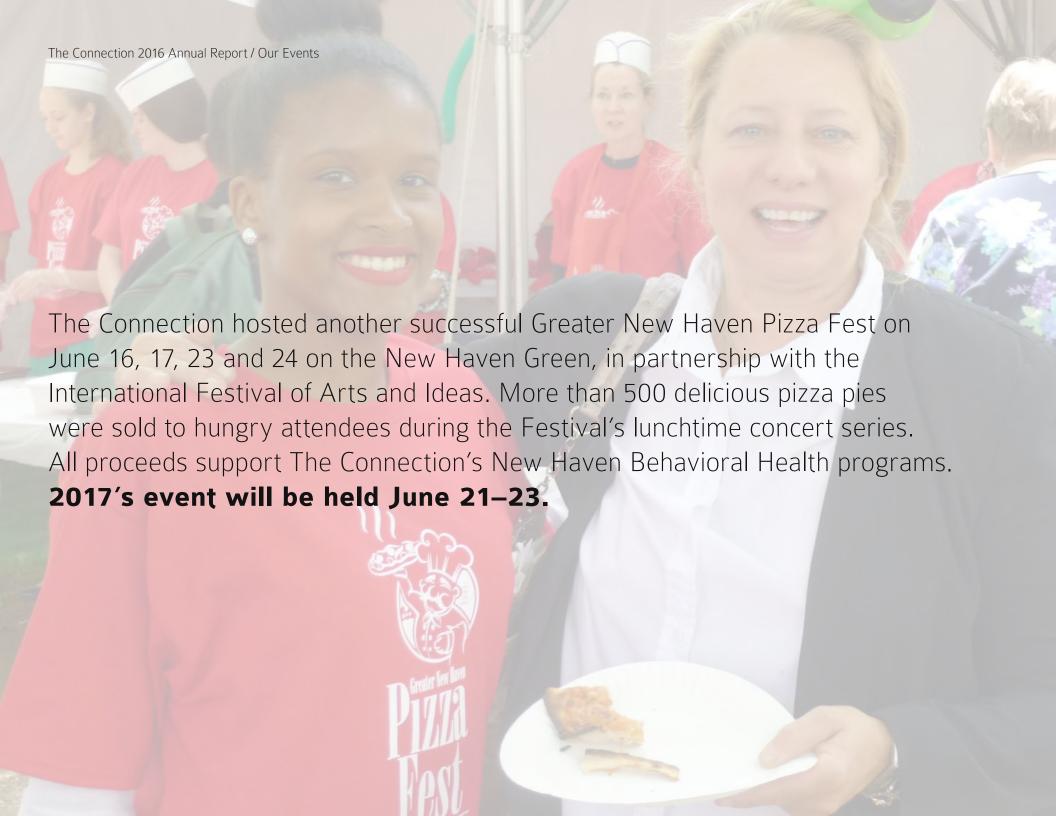
The Institute conducts original research, primarily on the recidivism rates of our clients, and also sponsors and guides research with area universities, including the University of Connecticut, Central Connecticut State University, the University of New Haven, Yale and Wesleyan. In the six years of its existence, the Institute has completed 35 research studies and reports.

Institute staff include Director Charles Barber, who in addition to his Connection work is a Lecturer in Psychiatry at Yale; Co-Director Michele Klimzcak, MSW; Research Director David Sells, Ph.D.; agency Medical Director Bandy Lee, MD, MDiv, who is also a professor of psychiatry at Yale and world-renowned anti-violence researcher; and Senior Consultant Michael Rowe, Ph.D, a professor of psychiatry at Yale.

OUR EVENTS

OUR EVENTS IN 2016, THE CONNECTION SHOWCASED ITS GOOD WORK WITH SEVERAL FUNDRAISING EVENTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE AGENCY AND THE COMMUNITY.







DRIVING HOPE HOME



On July 14, 2016, family and friends from the community spent the day with NASCAR driver Joey Logano at the third annual Joey Logano Foundation's Driving Hope Home charity fundraising event held in Plantsville, Connecticut. Attendees celebrated the Middletown native's racing roots with a round of golf at the Southington Country Club and dinner, car show and auction at the Aqua Turf Club all to make a positive impact for those in need.









I always look forward to this time of year and coming back home to host the event...I am so fortunate to be able to give back, this is what it's all about for me. I will never forget that. From this event, we will bring substantial financial resources to non-profits working to make a difference in the community. Plus, we'll have a lot of fun!

The event raised \$45,000 for Logano Place to continue assisting homeless adults who are working to recover from behavioral health and substance abuse issues. This funding will be used to provide these individuals a restart in their lives. The Ronald McDonald House Charities and the Joey Logano Foundation also benefitted from event supporters. We are grateful to be participating in the fourth annual fundraiser on July 13, 2017!



CFA SOCIETY CORPORATE 5K BENEFITTING THE CONNECTION

















THE CONNECTION'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Connection hosted its annual conference, **CURING VIOLENCE**: **Healthier Individuals, Families and Communities** on October 24 and 25, 2016 at Wesleyan University. 400 attendees learned about violence prevention strategies, specifically how to:

- Educate others on violence prevention strategies
- Discuss how to begin to heal from the effects of violence
- Discuss family and youth violence prevention opportunities
- Learn about legislation and other resources for violence prevention

The keynote speaker was Dr. James Leckman, Professor of Child Psychiatry at Yale. Dr. Leckman is a well-known child psychiatrist and patient-oriented clinical investigator whose peers have regularly selected him as one of the Best Doctors in America.

Join us for The Connection's 2017 Conference, Addictive Disorders: Innovative Solutions, Reclaimed Lives on October 23 and 24 at Wesleyan University!

2/103

MEN OF COLOR ARE
CURRENTLY RECEIVING SERVICES
AT THE CONNECTION



CONNECTION STAFF AND
COMMUNITY MEMBERS LISTENED
TO AND LEARNED ABOUT THE
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF VIOLENCE



IN 2016, THE CONNECTION OFFERED SECOND CHANCES TO

3,022

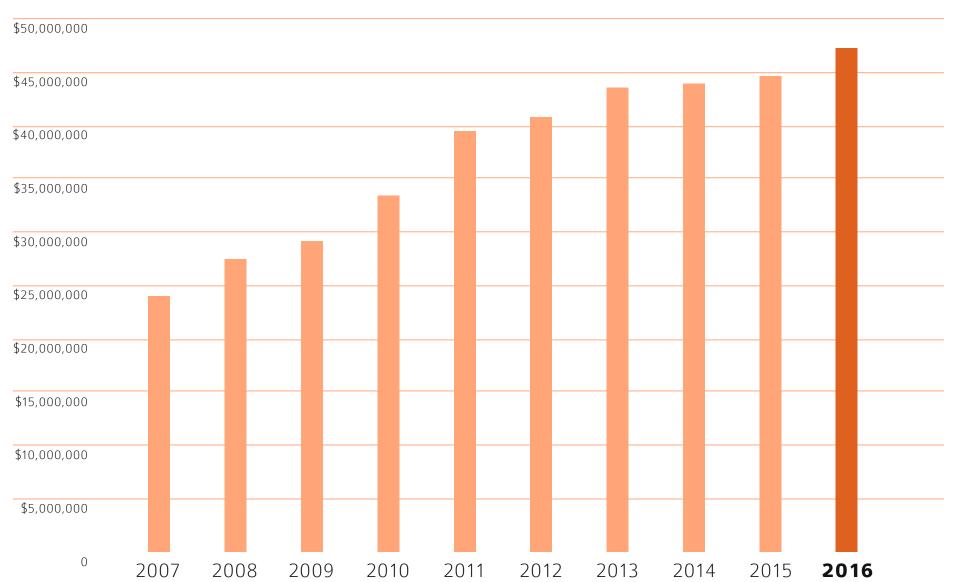
INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING AGENCY COMMUNITY JUSTICE SERVICES



FINANCIALS

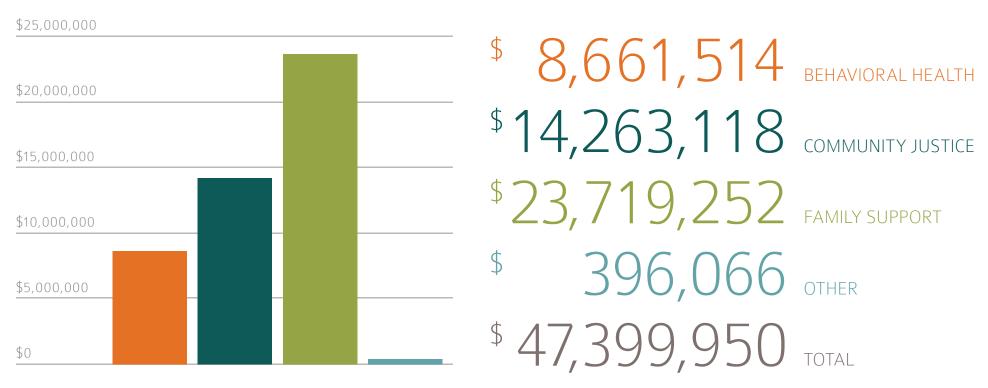
THE CONNECTION, INC. ANNUAL SUPPORT

2015-2016 DATA BASED UPON AGENCY BUDGET, FY 2007 TO FY 2016



TOTAL GRANT EXPENDITURES BY SERVICE AREA





HOW WE USE THE DOLLARS

DIRECT Services to clients and communities, including counseling, evaluations, community service work, food, housing, care, guidance, supervision and monitoring.

INDIRECT General leadership and management services including planning, program and fund development, accounting, audits, legal and personnel support, board support and community relations.

\$8,000,000

\$ 7,000,000

\$6,000,000

\$5,000,000

\$4,000,000

\$3,000,000

\$2,000,000

\$1,000,000

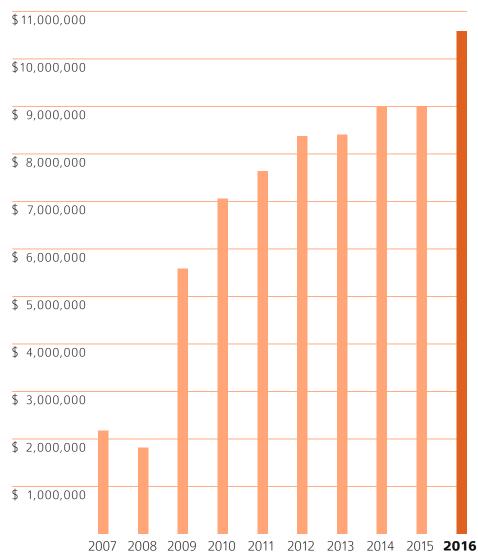
THE CONNECTION FUND, INC. NET ASSETS

FY 2007 TO FY 2016

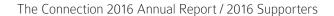
2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 **2016**

THE CONNECTION FUND, INC. ANNUAL EXPENDITURES

FY 2007 TO FY 2016



2016 Supporters



THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING CARING INDIVIDUALS, COMPANIES AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO SUPPORTED THE CONNECTION'S MISSION BY MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AGENCY IN FISCAL YEAR 2016*.

The Connection 2016 Annual Report / 2016 Supporters

	A-1 TOYOTA	ALISON BRINKMANN	CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF	EVERGREEN FIBRES, INC.	
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	LEE ANNE BORKOWSKI	AND FAMILIES CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION	EDGEHILL REALTORS AT PEARCE/JUDITH	GINGRAS	
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REV. MARY KLAAREN	ASSOCIATION ALLIANCE	BARBARA AND MICHAEL PERKOWSKI	ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, FAIRFIELD
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PATRICK AND TRACY MACKINSTRY-	PETER AND VALERIE NUCCI	SAFE N SOUND STORAGE	TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
PRYOR	OR8L COMMERCIAL, LLC	KATHY SAVINO	TOWN OF ESSEX
MICHAEL MAHONEY	OFF THE STREETS	SBW FOUNDATION	TOWN OF KILLINGWORTH
CATHERINE MANALO	OMNI HOTEL NEW HAVEN AT YALE	JAMES M. SCARAMOZZA AND MICHELLE L.	TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD
ROBERT MANGO	OWENS REALTY SERVICES	BROPHY	TOWN OF PORTLAND

The Connection 2016 Annual Report / 2016 Supporters

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UNITED ILLUMINATING COMPANY	JUSTICE FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS	HAVEN	SOCIETY	YORKSIDE PIZZA
UNITED STATES BUREAU OF	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	UNITED WAY OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY VARUNES & ASSOCIATES	WEBSTER BANK	
JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION			LIBBY WENTWORTH	
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF			WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY	
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	ADMINISTRATION	EDWARD L. VIANI	WHITTLESEY & HADLEY, P.C.	
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT	VICTOR AUTO BODY WORKS WALL STREET PIZZA	WILBUR CROSS HIGH SCHOOL	
			SUSAN WRIGHT	

THANK YOU.



THE CONNECTION IS ACCREDITED BY THE COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (COA)

COA is an independent, not-for-profit organization that partners with human service organizations worldwide to improve service delivery outcomes by developing, applying, and promoting appropriate best practice standards. Achieving accreditation entails review of all aspects of The Connection's programs and services.

COA accreditation has improved the way the agency delivers services to our clients and the community, and has established strategies for continual improvement in the years to come.



The Connection

Community-based Services, Advocacy and Research for Connecticut