




CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE



BUILDING SAFE,
HEALTHY, CARING
COMMUNITIES AND
INSPIRING PEOPLE
TO REACH THEIR
FULL POTENTIAL AS
PRODUCTIVE AND
VALUED CITIZENS



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Our Executive Team

Lisa DeMatteis-Lepore,
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Thomas Forschner, MBA, CPA,
Chief Financial Officer

Beth Connor, MBA,
Chief Strategy Officer

Kathy Savino, Psy.D.,
Chief Program Officer

Jessica Smith, LMFT,
Deputy Chief of Clinical
Development & Operations

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

Debra Borzellino, LMFT,
Director of Family Support Services

Patrick Fallon, MS, LADC,
Director of Community
Justice Services

Teresa Ferraro, LPC,
Director of Community &
Residential Behavioral Health

John Lawlor,
Director of Homeless Youth
& Young Adult Programs

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Assurance

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Medical Director

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Raymond Bovich, CFA

Michael Miller

David Printy

Dear Friends,

Hope + Vision = Creating Positive Change 03

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THE CONNECTION'S 2018 ANNUAL REPORT. DURING THIS YEAR, HUNDREDS OF STAFF, BOARD MEMBERS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS, AND STATE AND NATIONAL LEADERS SUPPLIED CONSTRUCTIVE FEEDBACK TO SHAPE THE CONNECTION'S STRATEGIC PLAN.

The strategic plan, titled *Creating Positive Change*, represents the shared aspirations of the agency's leadership, staff and Boards of Directors and will guide our organization for the next three years. We're pleased to share excerpts of this product within this report.

Established in 1972, The Connection has grown to be a state leader in the provision of housing, case management, and treatment services for the homeless, mentally ill, substance addicted, and for the preservation of families and individuals restarting their lives after incarceration. Our mission is to be responsive to our clients, our staff and our communities with quality, cost effective services that address these important societal and community safety concerns. We strive to do great work and seek to continually strengthen the agency's program profile and infrastructure.

As a private, nonprofit organization, our work is evolving by constant changes in the external landscape. The Connection's vision to be the most trusted provider in the communities we serve is more important than ever. To do this, it is imperative that we continue to adapt our programs, improve our financial sustainability, partner with others, strengthen our culture and internal operations and evolve our board leadership. It's always been our mission to improve the lives and promote the well-being of every person who seeks our services. As populations shift, technology advances, and new societal concerns emerge, we're responding to new challenges every day.

As we move forward it will be exciting to see how our system will expand upon the excellence in service provision we're known for. It's imperative that we continue to leverage our unique strengths. Our new leadership is strong and proactively responding to community needs. We are remaining committed to building upon the innovation of our work, our research to practice model, the passion and dedication of our talented staff, the partnerships we've developed and the unmatched quality of the care we provide to realize our goals. This plan reflects the revitalization necessary to prepare The Connection for a service delivery system better equipped to assist today's most vulnerable citizens. Thank you for supporting us in this strength-building journey. We look forward to creating positive change in our communities.

Sincerely,

Gloster Aaron, Ph.D., Chair, + Stephen Angle, Ph.D., Chair,
The Connection, Inc. The Connection Fund, Inc.

IN FISCAL YEAR 2018,
WE SAW MORE CLIENTS
UTILIZING OUR CONTINUUM
OF CARE THAN EVER
BEFORE. MANY OF OUR
CLIENTS ARE STRUGGLING
WITH SUBSTANCE
USE, MENTAL ILLNESS,
HOMELESSNESS AND
COMMUNITY JUSTICE
ISSUES, AND MAY
EXPERIENCE MORE
THAN ONE OF
THOSE CHALLENGES.

The Connection served **12,158 unique individuals** throughout Connecticut, across all our programs and services.

Our programs are prepared to meet people where they are when they become engaged with our organization, and we have programs in place to assist our clients as they grow, heal and move through the recovery process.

Unique Challenges + Dynamic Engagement = Meeting the Needs **05**

Behavioral Health Clients

Family Support Services Clients

+ Community Justice Clients

12,158 Individuals Served



BETTOR CHOICE SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR THE HIDDEN ADDICTION

Problem gambling is often referred to as the “hidden addiction.” Family members can be affected by problem gambling in many ways — which can include financial impact as well as emotional impact. Problem gambling can also lead to or co-occur with domestic violence and other types of abuse.

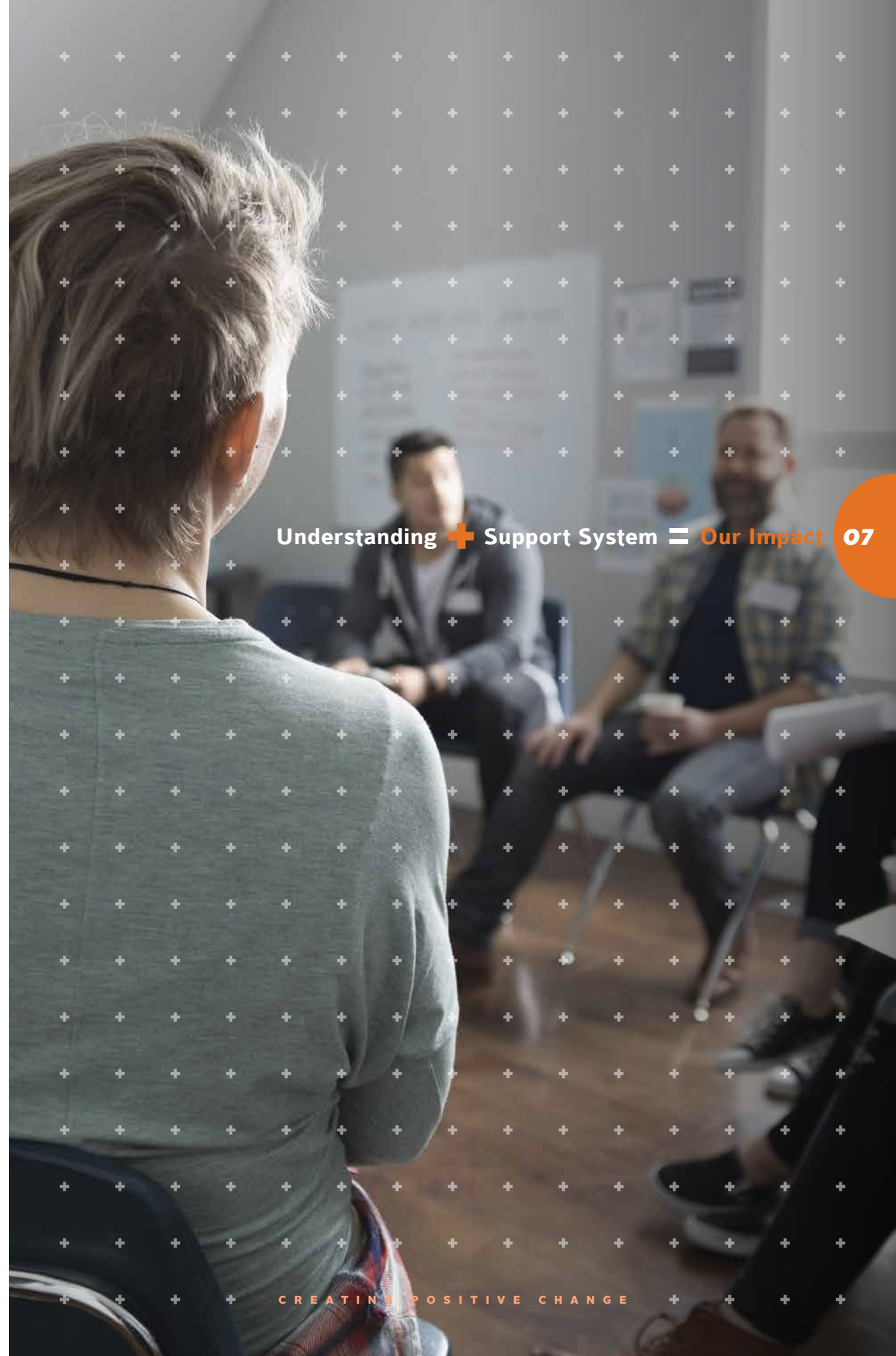
The Connection’s Bettor Choice program has the only support group in the state of Connecticut specifically designed for family members. Parents, spouses, siblings and adult children of problem gamblers come together bi-weekly to support each other at our family support group. Family members are also able to access one on one or family treatment with no out of pocket costs, available to any client utilizing the Bettor Choice program.

Our program staff includes two staff members with lived experience surrounding problem gambling, both from the perspective of problem gamblers and how it can affect family members. This access to unique lived peer experience leads to an enriching process for the people receiving our services.

Family member Annemarie describes her experience in the family support group for problem gambling:

“ I feel blessed to have found a gambling support program that has helped me enter into my own recovery. It is my hope that if I help myself, it will eventually help the problem gambler. I feel that the quality of my life has improved. I still worry, but I’m not constantly consumed by thoughts of the problem gambler. The strategies that I learn in small group are applicable to all other areas of my life, not just with problem gambling. It’s very comforting to meet with a group of people who are going through the same thing that I’m going through. It’s a safe and non-judgmental environment. I look forward to attending my meetings, learning more each time and working hard to maintain my own recovery. ”

The Bettor Choice program interventions are tailored to the individual needs of each client, but can include financial counseling, problem gambling education, and assisting with strategies to help minimize the impact of problem gambling to affected people. The program also provides community outreach to promote awareness, education and prevention as it relates to gambling disorders.



Understanding + Support System = Our Impact 07



THE START PROGRAM

Homeless young adults aged 18–24 are the fastest growing homeless sub-population throughout Connecticut and the nation. Despite this surge in numbers, homeless young adults do not seek shelter and housing services through existing options as these programs fail to meet the unique developmental needs of young adults.

This means homeless young adults are choosing to stay in unsafe environments, being exploited, and even sleeping outside. Youth facing these choices lead to increases in the length of time youth are homeless and increased interactions with high-cost systems (such as the criminal justice system and child welfare systems).

Better, More Stable Options + Skill Building = Our Impact 09

The Start Program was developed as a small pilot program in 2011 in conjunction with the Department of Children & Families to answer this need. The program provides intensive case management services combined with short-term housing and emergency housing services to homeless youth age 18–24. The program provides youth-specific shelter and housing options that are safe, along with opportunities for skill development, and connections to reliable community supports to homeless youth throughout the state. Staff provide weekly in-home/community-based visits with young adults in the program, targeted towards the areas of housing stabilization, money management, and employment skills. The overarching program goal being that the young adults we serve can become self-sufficient, confident in their skills, and as a result not return to homelessness.

Outcome data from the previous fiscal year of the Start Program shows that...

142

HOMELESS YOUTH WERE PROVIDED WITH SHELTER AND/OR TIME-LIMITED HOUSING THROUGHOUT THE STATE;

98%

OF HOMELESS YOUTH EXITING THE PROGRAM WERE DISCHARGED TO STABLE HOUSING;

96%

OF HOMELESS YOUTH IN THE PROGRAM OBTAINED EMPLOYMENT AND/OR RETURNED TO SCHOOL; AND

<3%

OF YOUTH THAT DISCHARGE FROM THE START PROGRAM EVER ENTER THE HOMELESS SYSTEM AGAIN.



INTENSIVE SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR FAMILIES

FEDERALLY-FUNDED PROJECT PROVES EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CONNECTION'S SERVICE MODEL

From 2012–2018, the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF), and its core partners (The Connection, the University of Connecticut, and Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago) planned, developed, implemented, and evaluated a supportive housing intervention for families in the child welfare system for the Intensive Supportive Housing for Families (ISHF) project.

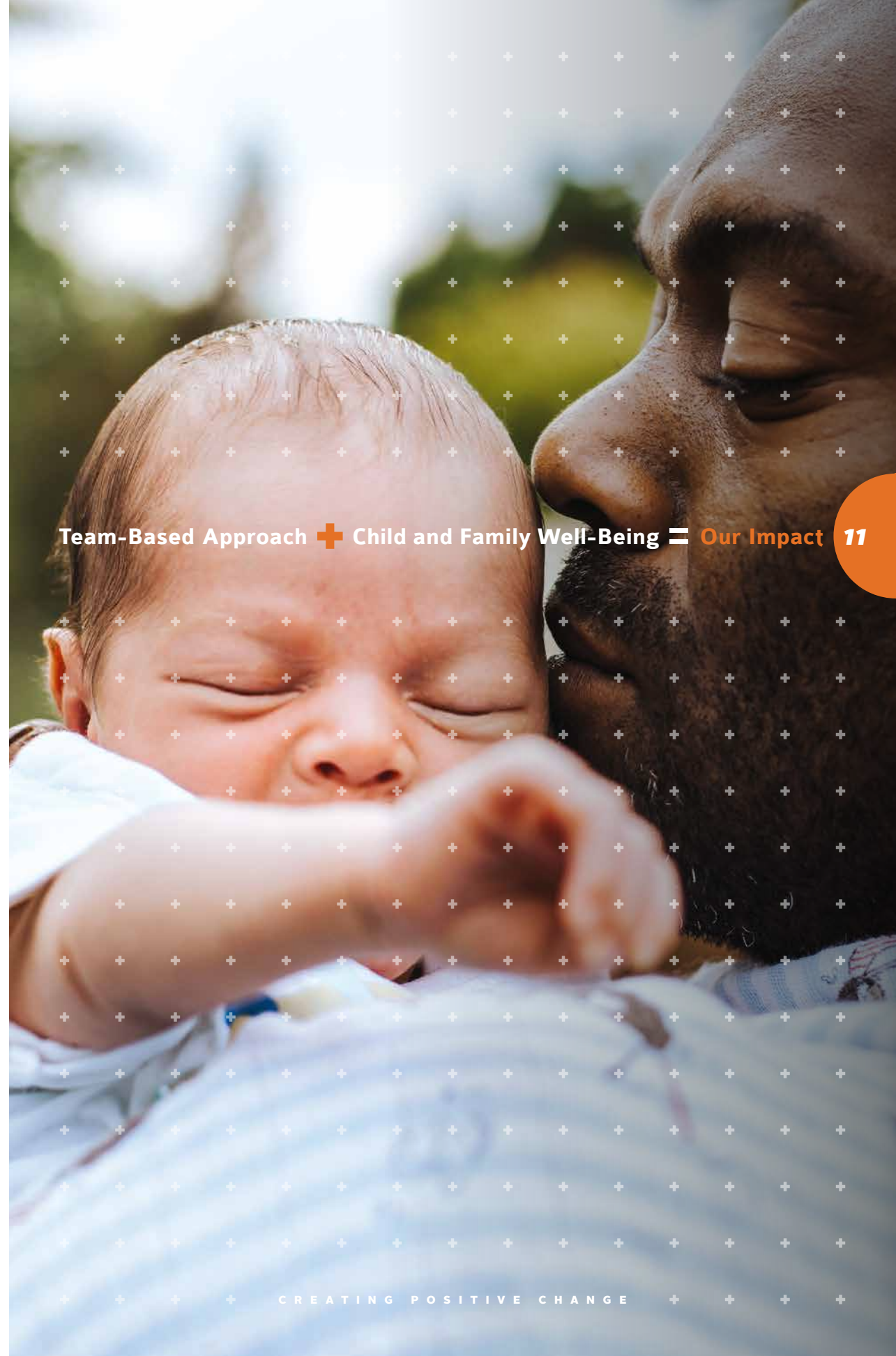
This federally-funded demonstration project capitalized on a longstanding statewide program at The Connection, Supportive Housing for Families (SHF). A Housing and Child Welfare Collaborative co chaired by state leaders served as the project advisory board; this group informed, oversaw, promoted, and supported project aims and led efforts toward systems integration and sustainability, policy and legislation, and family economic security and well-being.

The project evaluated Intensive Supportive Housing for Families clients who had access to evidence-based interventions for parenting, trauma, and other mental health challenges, substance abuse, health, housing, and employment preparedness. Triage and assessment prompted team-based services, engaging parents as full members. Interdisciplinary teams included the parent, case manager, and representatives from support providers. ISHF families were evaluated alongside families receiving the traditional service components of SHF. Families who remained on the SHF wait list and did not receive services beyond involvement from their DCF caseworkers functioned as a control group.

Results of the impact analysis revealed that access to a service model containing a combination of supportive housing and case management was associated with both short- and long-term benefits through two years.

Comparing families enrolled in both treatment groups (ISHF and SHF) to controls, a greater proportion of children **(30% vs. 9%)** were reunified with their families (among reunification cases) and a lower proportion of children **(9% vs. 40%)** were removed from their families or experienced an incident of substantiated maltreatment (among preservation cases).

When comparing ISHF and SHF families, the research team found that the intensity of the service model had minimal impacts on children and families. Ultimately, these findings highlight supportive housing as an essential component of any intervention model to promote child and family well-being, particularly for families involved in the child welfare system and at risk of housing instability and homelessness.



Team-Based Approach + Child and Family Well-Being = Our Impact 11



THE CONNECTION CENTER FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

INCREASING HEALTH EQUITY WITH OPEN ACCESS

The Connection Center for Behavioral Health provides a comprehensive array of services that are client centered, strength-based, trauma-informed and aim to treat clients at the least restrictive level of care possible. Services are available to treat substance abuse, mental health and co-occurring disorders, and include individual, group, and family therapy, medication management and intensive outpatient care.

Community-Based Care + Open Access = Our Impact 13

The Center for Behavioral Health has rolled out an open access policy at all locations. New clients can come during open access hours to complete a behavioral health evaluation, eliminating wait times for scheduled appointments and allowing treatment to begin right away. As a result, the Centers have seen a 67% increase in the number of new intake sessions compared to the six months prior to launching open access.

The Center for Behavioral Health in New Haven offers medication assisted treatment for opioid use disorder. Clients receive behavioral health treatment, medication, and care management from one integrated team of providers. The MAT Care Manager provides strength-based case management support for The Centers for Behavioral Health Medication Assisted Treatment Program. In addition to case management functions, the care manager assists clinicians and collaborates with other team members in the treatment of adults suffering from substance abuse and/or mental health disorders, in a community-based outpatient treatment setting. With the support of DMHAS funds, The Center for Behavioral Health has increased capacity in New Haven.

67%

INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF NEW INTAKE SESSIONS AT THE CENTERS COMPARED TO THE SIX MONTHS PRIOR TO LAUNCHING OPEN ACCESS.



The Connection Center for Behavioral Health

196 Court Street / Middletown
900 Chapel Street / New Haven
101 Water Street / Norwich

(855) Help955 (855) 435-7955

RE-ENTRY PROGRAMS

THE CONNECTION SHOWING SUCCESS ACROSS THE STATE

The United States locks up a greater portion of its population than nearly any other country in the world, but the total number of people imprisoned has fallen slowly from its peak in the early 2000s. According to new data from the federal government's Bureau of Justice Statistics, the number of people incarcerated decreased 1 percent to 1,505,400 people by the end of 2016.

Recently the state of Connecticut began a mission of "decarceration." The Office of Policy and Management projects a conservative decrease of 445 people in the state's prison population over the next year. In order to achieve this goal residents must leave incarceration and not go back. Our programs prepare participants to leave incarceration and not come back.

The Connection has 322 re-entry beds in its programs, which include the only work release program designed specifically for women. These programs measure a participant's overall risk of recidivism by using an assessment tool to evaluate specific areas of a participant's life that increase probability of reincarceration such as mental health, substance abuse, positive supports, and employment to name a few. Once identified, participants work with the program on a plan to better these areas and decrease the risk of recidivism.

What re-entry program graduate David says about his experience in our program:

“ I truly believe that part of the reason that I succeeded in my endeavors was due to the trainings and positive relationship and role models that I encountered while at Roger Sherman. I took a lot of these experiences and exercises with me and I do not know how I could have done it without them. ”

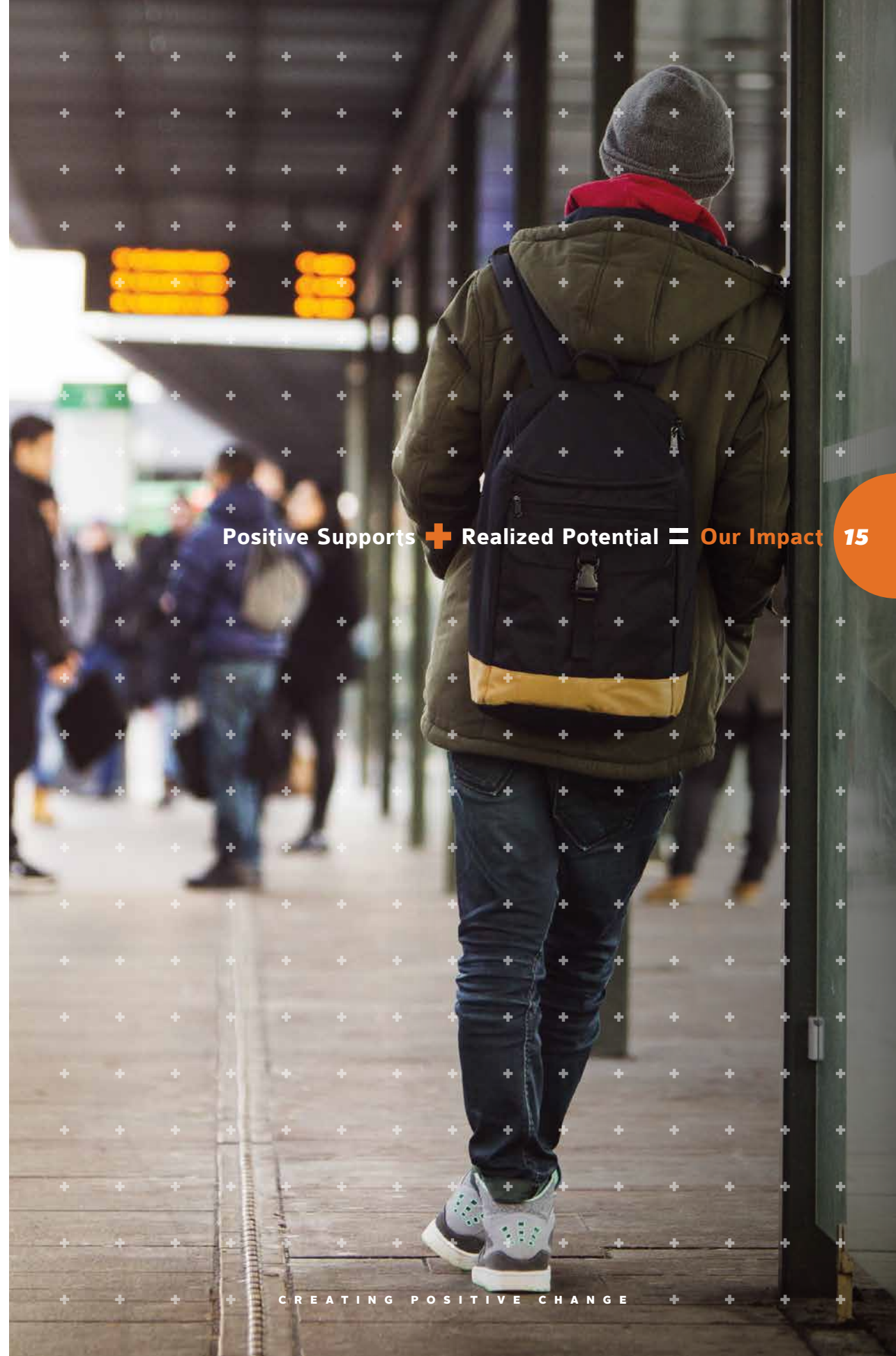


>60%

OF PEOPLE FROM OUR RE-ENTRY PROGRAMS, LIKE DAVID, FIND EMPLOYMENT AND SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE PROGRAM. THESE TWO OUTCOMES ALONE STRENGTHEN FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES AND THE OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THOSE WHO RESIDE IN CONNECTICUT.



Visit our website to find more information about David's story and listen to his podcast episode: theconnectioninc.org/david-is-creating-positive-change



Positive Supports + Realized Potential = Our Impact 15






BE A FOSTER PARENT
Because childhood goes so fast.



The Connection

CONNECTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

A SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP WITH THE JOEY LOGANO FOUNDATION

At The Connection, we believe that children belong in families and deserve to live in homes where they can feel safe, valued, and loved in a nurturing environment. In our Therapeutic Foster Care program, Connecting Children and Families, we match youth of all ages with dedicated therapeutic foster parents, who open their hearts and their homes to a child.

Amazing Partners + Shared Vision = Our Impact 17

In May of 2018 the agency partnered with the Joey Logano Foundation to launch a public awareness campaign for therapeutic foster care in the state of Connecticut. The campaign featured digital billboards across the state, TV spots featuring Joey Logano that aired on Fox61, and several media appearances on radio and TV.

Founded in 2013 by NASCAR driver Joey Logano and his wife, Brittany Logano, The Joey Logano Foundation invests in organizations offering second chances to children and young adults during times of crisis and works to inspire others to live a life of generosity. Through grant making, charity events, and fan club participation, The Joey Logano Foundation continues to make a profound difference in the lives of children and adults in need across the country.



2018 EVENTS

2018 was a busy year for special events at The Connection with the launch of our 1st Annual Golf Tournament, taking place at H. Smith Richardson Golf Course in Fairfield. More than \$60,000 was raised to support The Connection's clients and programs at our special events throughout the year. In addition to the Golf Tournament, our events this year included the 2018 Masquerade Ball, the CFA Society Corporate 5K in Hartford, and the annual Connection Conference. The 2018 Conference theme was Meaningful Connections: Exploring Engagement in Human Services.

Our special events are an excellent way to learn more about our programs and the ways in which we help our communities. Please join us for an event in 2019!

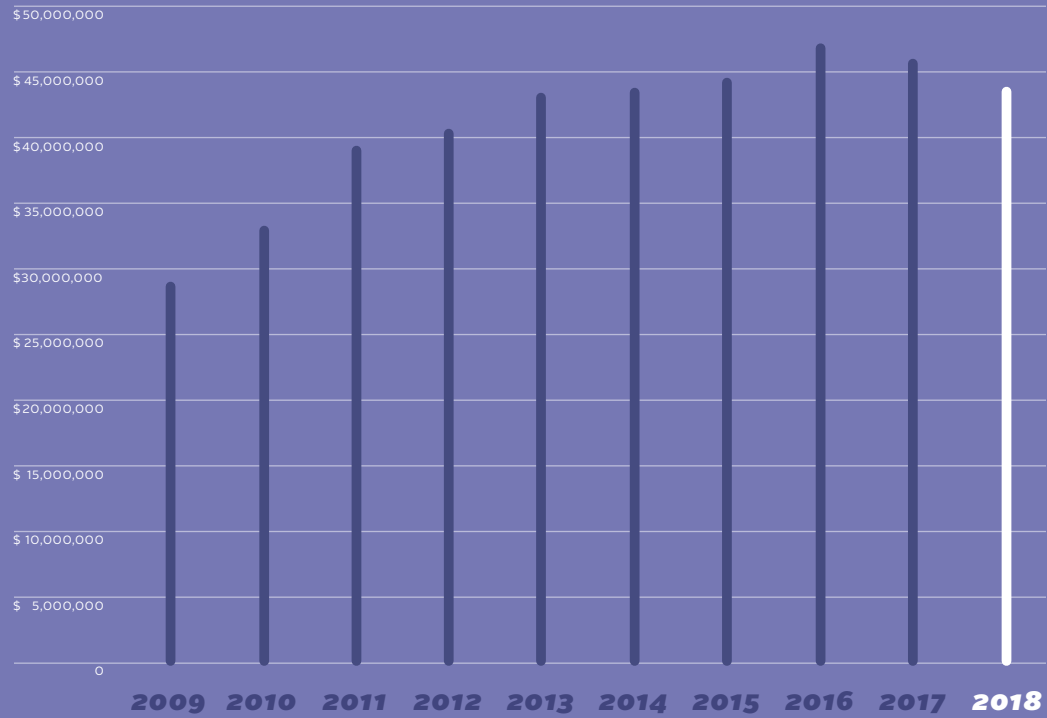
- ✦ **2nd Annual Golf Tournament** June 24, 2019
- ✦ **CFA Society Corporate 5K** August 1, 2019
- ✦ **Cultivating Resilience Conference** October 21, 2019



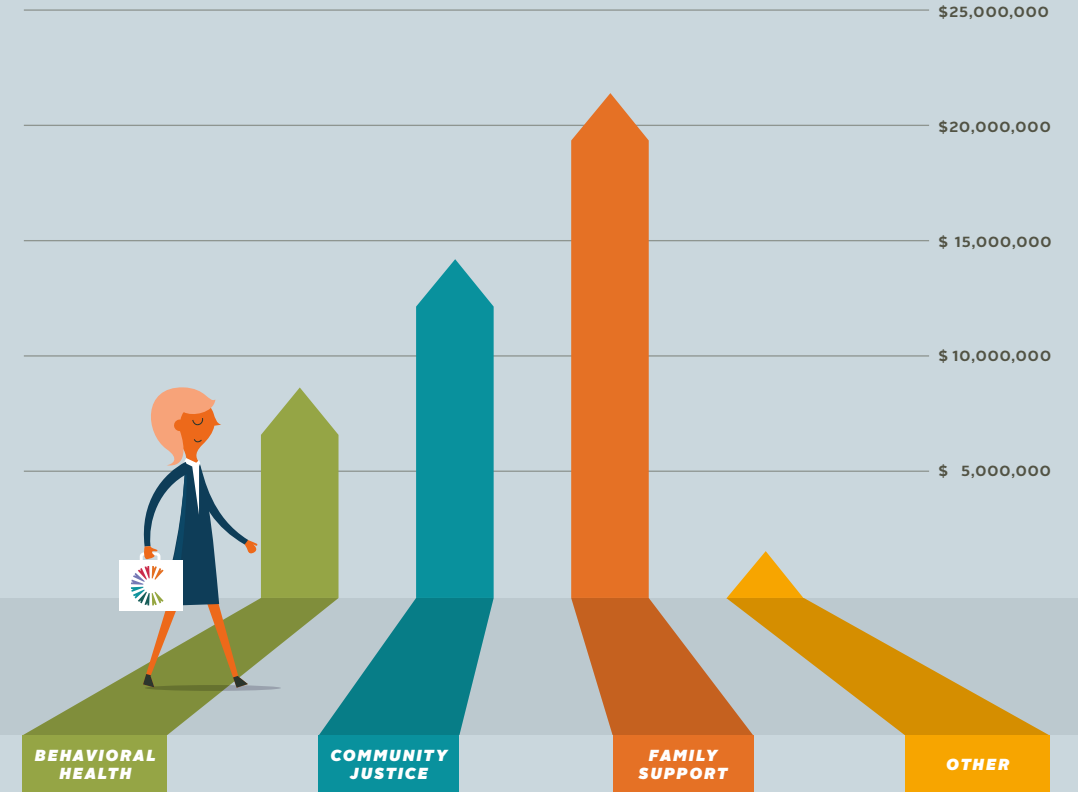
Community Events 19



The Connection, Inc. Annual Support



Grant Expenditures by Service Area



\$ 9,040,854 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

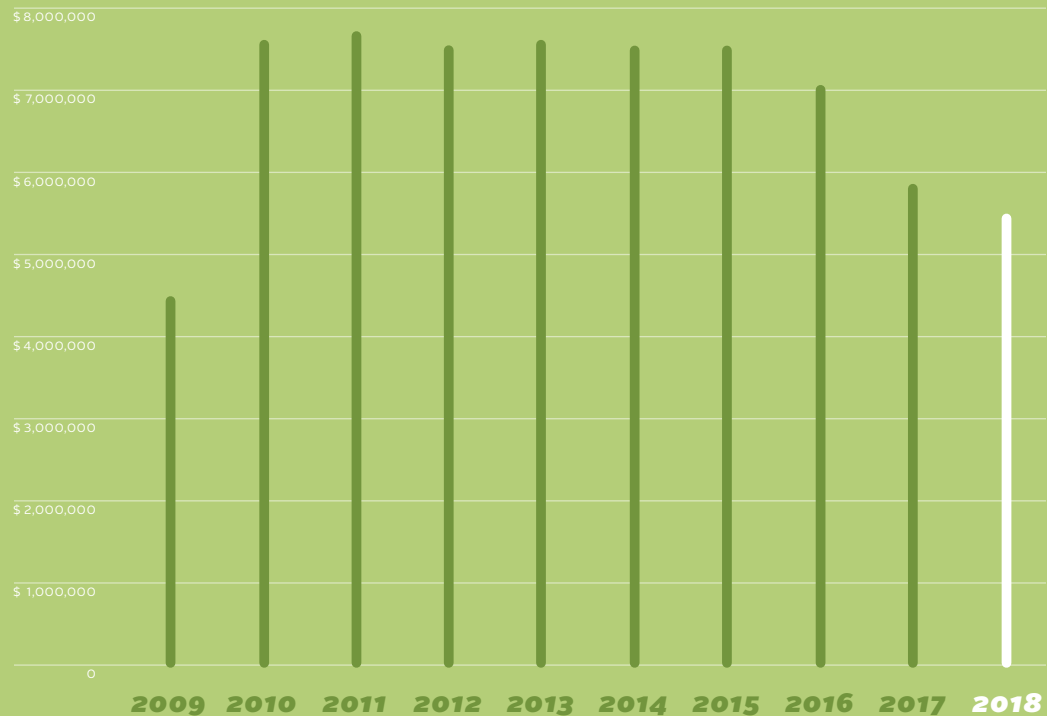
\$ 14,449,372 COMMUNITY JUSTICE

\$ 21,504,062 FAMILY SUPPORT

\$ 366,557 OTHER

\$ 45,360,845 TOTAL

The Connection Fund, Inc. Net Assets



How We Use the Dollars

PERCENTAGES ARE CALCULATED BASED ON TOTAL EXPENSES

86% DIRECT Services to clients and communities, including counseling, evaluations, community service work, food, housing, care, guidance, supervision and monitoring.

14% INDIRECT General leadership and management services, including planning, program and fund development, accounting, audits, legal and personnel support, board support and community relations.

2018 SUPPORTERS

A.R. Mazzotta
Employment Specialists

A-1 Toyota

A-Cure LLC

Dr. Gloster B. Aaron,
Jr. and Dr. Katherine
Allocco

ABCD, Inc. Early
Learning Division

ABH

Access Community
Action Agency

ACES Middlesex County
Early Head Start

Active Network

Adapt Pharma

Advanced Benefit
Strategies

Aetna

Amie Gross Architects

Stephen Angle

Tracy Anhalt

Anne Capano Charitable
Foundation for Giving

Anonymous

Antiques & Home
Furnishings, LLC

Avangrid

Nicole Bajek

Baldwin Media

Jeffrey Baran

Charlie Barber and
Laura Radin

Kelly Barclay

Rose Barnes

David Barrett Rich

Samantha Batson

Marie Bayley

Stephen Bayley

Bella Perlina Jewelry

Aurora A. Bernardino

BH Care, Inc.

Claire Bien

Brian Black

Owen and Suzanne
Black

Randall Blank

Elizabeth Bobrick

John L. Boccalatte

Donna Bogen

Book Barn

LeeAnne Borkowski

Dr. Harold D. Bornstein, Jr.

Debra and David
Borzellino

Raymond and Sandra
Bourret

Courtney Joy Brandt

Richard B. Brown Jr.

Laura Bulas

Robert and Deborah
Burnside

Caitlin Calder

Ruthanne Canto

Capitol View
Apartments

Maureen Carney and
John Cox

CBS, a Xerox company

CDW Direct, LLC

Celtic Sheet Metal, Inc.

Center for
Compassionate
Recovery

Marie Cerino

Richard and Marge
Chabak

Chabaso Bakery

Linda J. Chambers

Chelsea Groton Bank

Cheri's Bakery

Gary Childress

Frank and Susan Cirillo

City of Middletown

City Missionary
Association
of New Haven

Jane S. Claybaugh
& Family

Clinton Crossings
Premium Outlets

Community Foundation
for Greater New Haven

Community Foundation
of Eastern Connecticut

Community Foundation
of Middlesex County

Community Foundation
of Middlesex County
Mountain Laurel Fund

Cathy A. Comstock

Francis X. Conlon II, CPA

Connecticut Coalition to
End Homelessness

Connecticut Court
Support Services
Division

Connecticut
Department of Children
and Families

Connecticut
Department of
Correction

Connecticut
Department of
Developmental Services

Connecticut
Department of Mental
Health and Addiction
Services

Connecticut
Department of Social
Services

Connecticut Orthopedic
Specialists

Beth Connor

Cordant Health
Solutions

Beatriz Cordova

Corporate Design

Michael and Betsy
Cronin

Barbara Crotty

Angel Culley

Otto and Deborah
Curran

Rochelle Currie

Da Legna

Jim Dacunto

Beth Davis

Dawn Davis

Deb Davis

Alissa K. DeJonge,
In Loving Memory
of Robert and Paula
DeJonge

Lisa DeMatteis-Lepore

Johnna DeSantis

Maria Dezi

Michael E. Donahue

Katherine Donovan
Downtown Caberet
Theatre

John Duca

Edward Dzialo, Jr.

Lorie Eadie

Electric Boat
Management
Association

Enfield Builders, Inc.

Simon Etzel in Honor
of Betsy Cronin

Evergreen Fibres, Inc.

Philip M. Faiella

Patrick Fallon

Fairfield County's
Community Foundation

Family & Children's
Agency

Thomas Farver

Nicole Fasold

Christopher Ficken

First Church of Christ,
Middletown

First Congregational
Church, Portland

Fischel Properties

Tom Forschner

Teresa Fox In Memory
of Michelle Losty

Francis X. Conlon II, CPA

Scott Frefry

Louise French

Frontline Marketing

Funk Boiler Works

Michelle Giardina

Rachel Gilbert

Daniel Gilhuly In Memory
of Michelle Losty

Giuliano's Bakery

GiveGreater.org

Mary Glynn

Glynn Associates

Goodspeed Musicals

Goody's Hardware
and Paint

Kevin Granger

Vera Grant

Guilford Coffee House

Guilford Mortgage
Services

Gumdrops & Lollipops

Marieanne Heft

Sandra Hill

Beth Hogan

Cheryl Holmes

Homegoods

Stacy Hooker

Hoopes Morgenthaler
Rausch & Scaramozza
LLC

Kate Houlihan

Amber Hunter

Andrea Hunter

Martina Hutley

Laurel Iaccarino

Ink&Pixel Agency

Inn at Middletown

Inner Light Counseling,
LLC

Ion Bank Foundation

Christina D. Jackson

Linda Kelly Jackson

Scott Jackson

JB Sports, LLC

Jewelry of Joy Studio
and Gallery

Joey Logano Charitable
Foundation

Genise Jones

Nanci Jutras

Alexis Kahn

Knights of Columbus,
Portland

Lora Kornegay-Dean

Kramer Portraits

Sheila Kristofak

Frederic and Lynn
Kudish

Alex Lahoski

LaModa Fashions

Peter Landsberger

Thomas Larson in
Memory of Michelle
Losty

LeBlanc
Communications

Angela Lee

Raymond and
Georgianna Leone

Marco and Lisa Lepore

Susan Lewis

Liberty Bank Foundation

Liberty Community
Services

Lori Lloyd

Anne Losty

Marlene Major

Ryan Malcarne

Malloves Jewelers

Mark Greenberg Real
Estate Company

Kelly L. Martin

Mendillo Family
Dentistry

Roberta Mendillo

E. Merritt McDonough Jr.

John and Nancy Meyers

Middlefield Federated
Church

Middlesex Hospital
Marketing

Middlesex United Way

Minuteman Press,
New England

Mohegan Sun

Kathleen Mones

Robert and Amalie
Montstream

Thomas Moran

Mr. J Asian Bistro

Karen Murphy

Allen and Judy Myrick

N.E.P. Inc.

NAMI of Elm City

Nathan Accounting
Group

Near and Far Aid

Network for Good

Marty Newbury

Newman Architects

Niantic Cinemas

Thomas Niles

Mallory Gunzy

H. Smith Richardson
Golf Course

Lyndia Haff

Hair Cuttery

Samantha Harrison-
Batson

Hartford CFA Society

Jerilynn Hayes

Martina Kardol

Sarah Keefe

James K. Kelliher

Grace Keniston

Key Bank

Killingworth Lions Club

Mary Klaaren

Michele Klimczak

Elizabeth Martinez-
Hernandez

Stephen Matos

MATP LLC

Margery L. May

Helen McAlinden

Tiffany McCarthy

McKesson

Donna Meade

Judith Normandin

Gina O'Connell

O'Connor's Public House

Off the Streets

Omni Hotel New Haven
at Yale

Owens Realty Services

Suzanne and
D. William Owens

Generous Hearts + Enabling Care = 2018 Supporters 23

Panera Bread Company	James Schreck	Thomas J. Atkins Memorial Trust Fund	Donald Walker
Papa's Pizza and Pasta	The Schreck Family	William Thomas Shea	Watkinson Prisoners Aid Society
Larry and Janice Papuga	Joe Schrek	Richard Tortora	Sherrie Weaver
Dawn M. Parker	Schuster Driscoll, LLC	Town Fair Tire Centers	Webster Bank
Partnership for Strong Communities	Seifert & Hogan	Town of Cromwell	Wells Fargo Advisors
Patriquin Architects	Kim Sellers Parker	Town of Durham	Libby Wentworth
People's United Insurance Agency	David and Cory Sells	Town of East Haddam	Richard West
Pepe's Pizza	Deborah Shapiro	Town of Essex	Westport Country Playhouse
Diana Perez-Autore	Dorothy Sharog	Town of Killingworth	Anna Lynn Wheeler
Petvalu	Heather Sherman	Town of Middlefield	Whittlesey
Ashley Picazio	Shipman & Goodwin LLP	Town of Portland	Rosemary Williams
Lynn Pinder	Kate Shugrue	Town of Westbrook	Workers' Compensation Trust
Timothy Poulin	Dr. Allen and Mrs. Irene Silberstein	Tri-Town Youth Services Bureau	World Wide Property Management
Quinnipiac University	Simply Sharing	Amanda Truppi-Eckert	Susan Wright Jacobsen
R. J. Julia Booksellers	Joseph Sisk	Kim Tyler	Yale-New Haven Hospital
Thomas and Pamela Ragonese	Nancy K. Smith	Dawn Tyson	Nicholas Yanouzas
Reflections Hair Studio	Pasquale V. Somma	Mackenzie Tyson	
Claudia M. Reynolds	Lorraine I. Sorvillo	United Illuminating Company	
Richard Penna Salon	Sound Fitness, LLC	United States Department of Health and Human Services	
Rob and Tina Rickenback	Southern Connecticut Gas Company	United States Department of Housing and Urban Development	
Carissa Rivera	Mark Splaine	United States Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Prisons	
Yesenia Rivera	Faith Sprigg	United States Department of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration	
Robert & Ardis James Foundation	St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Fairfield	United Way of Connecticut	
Robinson & Cole, LLP	Amber Stamm	United Way of Greater New Haven	
Louis and Violeta Rogowski	Rebecca Stanley	United Way of Middlesex County	
Tasha Rose	Patricia A. Stephenson Gordon	University of New Haven	
Robert Rudewicz	Maryann Steurnagel	Ursel's Web	
Saint Lawrence Church, Killingworth	Stone Ridge Retirement Community	Iris Velazquez	
Saint Mary Church, Portland	Debra Struzinski	Anne Ventimiglia	
Nancy Salgado	Deborah C. Swanson	W. B. Mason Company	
Adneris Santiago	Cathy Swift		
Bob and Anita Satti	Fred and Mary Tarca		
Kathy Savino	The Fresh Market		
Saybrook Point Inn	The Ivoryton Playhouse		
Diann Schreck	Theater Works		

DR. EDWARD FRIEDMAN

HONORING AN EARLY CHAMPION FOR THE CONNECTION

Since Kätchen Coley founded The Connection in 1972, the agency has since grown to a staff of more than 400 and operates 45 programs. Her innovative vision of community based programs would not have come to fruition without the support of Dr. Edward Friedman, who died on January 30, 2019 at the age of 94.

In the early 1970s, Kätchen Coley volunteered in the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Service at Connecticut Valley Hospital, which Dr. Friedman, a psychologist, directed. In working with the patients on the unit, she was alarmed by how quickly they were readmitted after what appeared to be a successful treatment episode and discharge. She soon realized that the discharging clients had no adequate housing and supports to go to, and often quickly relapsed, precipitating their return to the hospital.

Kätchen Coley thought there might be a relatively straightforward answer to the problem. If she could only get a house, somewhere in Middletown, which would serve as a supportive home to former patients, she could help stop this expensive and painful revolving door. While simple, her idea was radical. In that era, there was virtually no supportive housing in the community for people with substance abuse and behavioral health needs. To bring her idea to practice, she needed a champion in the mental healthcare field.

That's where Dr. Friedman came in. He enthusiastically endorsed Kätchen Coley's radical idea and wrote letters of support for the first grant awarded to The Connection, a \$30,000 federal award to buy a dilapidated house on Washington Street in Middletown, near Wesleyan University. Dr. Friedman also agreed to be a member of the Board of Directors of the incipient organization. Without his backing (and role in making CVH a referral source), the agency would never have gotten off the ground. Many medical professionals of that era would not have subscribed to Kätchen Coley's risky and untested vision, but Dr. Friedman intuitively understood that his patients needed a home, and perhaps more important than that, a community.

Almost fifty years later, the agency is indebted to both Dr. Edward Friedman for his prescient and courageous vision and to our brave founder, Kätchen Coley.





THE CONNECTION INC. ORG / 2018 - AR
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