Mission

Our mission is to end homelessness in Fairfield County by supporting a collective impact approach through dedicated staff, committed partners and strategic leadership. We implement cost-effective system changes and align community resources so that no one is without a place to live for more than 30 days.

Letter from the Executive Director

As I look back on 2015, I realize how fortunate I am to be part of Supportive Housing Works (SHW) at a historic time when we are at the cusp of ending chronic homelessness. SHW’s efforts are unified with service providers who sacrifice autonomy for the sake of collaboration; a Board of Directors who provides vision and support for the regional good; funders who are willing to invest in system change knowing that impact does not happen overnight.

SHW has evolved significantly over the past ten years since its creation by four non-profit supportive housing providers. Now, together with the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH), SHW has emerged as the backbone organization for Opening Doors Fairfield County (ODFC), a regional movement of over 150 stakeholders who have come together to end homelessness in our communities.

Strengthening the collaboration amongst our partners using a collective impact approach has resulted in tremendous successes for 2015 that include: a year of operating the region’s Coordinated Access Network (CAN) that has revolutionized the homeless system; instilling data management into our community’s decision-making; providing leadership in key regional initiatives such as the 100-Day Campaign; engaging employment, healthcare and youth services in all aspects of our work.

Please review our 2015 Highlights and witness the work of SHW’s staff and key partners who are so passionate and driven to go above and beyond to end this human plight in our communities.

Here’s to ending homelessness as we know it in Fairfield County.

Sincerely,

David Rich
SHW Highlights

JANUARY

Lauren presents on Ending Family and Youth Homelessness at the NAEH Conference in San Diego, CA.

SHW and CCEH staff travels to Montgomery County, PA to exchange collective impact approaches to ending homelessness.

Lisa is invited to DC to showcase progress of the SIF program in providing better health outcomes through housing.

SHW provides key leadership for the 100 Day Campaign teams that housed 94 individuals and 65 families.

David shares the Diana Randall Housing Leadership Award at the 2015 Reaching Home dinner for his work with ODFC.

After SHW successfully leads the planning effort, Secure Jobs is launched to increase employment income for families in the Rapid Rehousing Program.


Samantha attends ORGCODE’s Leadership Training in West Virginia.

SHW holds a staff retreat to reflect on accomplishments/challenges and map out SHW’s vision.

Lisa spearheads “Meeting the Needs of Youth” event that maps resources and creates needed cross-sectors.

Lauren leads planning for the CAN Anniversary marking one year of operations with wait time down from 3 months to 48 hours.

Mike organizes ODFC film screening of Time Out of Mind at The Bijou Theatre in Bridgeport.

Lisa facilitates a community forum on Substance Use Disorders at Norwalk City Hall addressing gaps and identifying solutions for the recovery process for the homeless population.

DECEMBER