

Liberty

FOR FRIENDS AND PARTICIPANTS OF LIBERTY COMMUNITY SERVICES

A Delicate Balance

Community is the life we have together. Families and friends, cities and towns. Community represents our shared humanity; what we have in common, more than our minor differences. Naturally, we want the best for ourselves and those around us, those we work with or see every day. We want the best for our community.

For those who have come to be homeless, who are living on the streets, or even staying at a friend's place one night and in a shelter another, there is a loss of this sense of community. Life brings anxiety, fear and desperation. The daily struggle to find a place to be warm or safe makes it impossible to share the things in life that the rest of us take for granted: having a plant on the windowsill, leftovers in the kitchen, a feeling of safety when you sleep.

The delicacy of our interdependence becomes more apparent every day, making the difficulties of those in need an unavoidable challenge for our entire society. For our community to address the issues of homelessness, through supportive housing programs and other economic, proven effective means, makes sense for us all. We are all one community. ■

A Building of Hope

Liberty Safe Haven

A building may be fashioned of wood and stone, bricks and glass, but a home is made by the people who live there. Liberty Safe Haven, a project of immense promise and hope for Connecticut, has been created with this idea in mind.

From the specially designed renovation of the building, to the organization of the wide array of supports and services that will be offered there, the focus of Liberty Safe Haven has always been on the consumers who will be served there.

The special mix of housing and services at Safe Haven has been developed to meet the needs of a remarkable population: those who are considered chronically

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LIBERTY
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SUPPORTIVE HOUSING & SERVICES
FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

A Plan That Works

When you recognize the solution to a problem, a way of doing something that improves the lives of others while saving resources for everyone, the feeling is electric. Supportive housing is increasingly being recognized as a life-saving solution to many of the issues of homelessness, giving encouragement to those facing the challenge of helping the underserved.

Built on a surprisingly simple model, supportive housing combines two essential components: stable, affordable housing in conjunction with supportive services, provided by on-site staff who are responsive to the needs of the individual. These services include case management, support in building independent living skills, referral to appropriate medical and rehabilitation services when needed, and help in regaining a place in the community through employment and support networks.

It is a combination that works. These two features, taken together, create an atmosphere of support and

strength that helps reconnect individuals to their families, creates a sense of community and inspires hope and courage among our most vulnerable citizens.

The most recent figures show that now over thirty-two thousand people a year experience homelessness in Connecticut, 40 percent of them children. In 2002 there were over twenty-seven thousand cases of people being turned away from shelters in our state due to lack of space. Each of these twenty-seven thousand times, someone sought a place to sleep in safety and warmth and was denied, an overwhelming 140 percent increase over two years.

In spite of such statistics, those experiencing homelessness are often hidden from view, staying on a friend's couch or a shelter bed, shifting from the streets to a health-care or rehabilitation facility. The effects of homelessness on an individual are profound and debilitating. But the effect of their condition on health-care services, social services and other resources is exorbitant, and these costs are borne by the community as a whole.

Nationwide studies on supportive housing affirm its value

[Please see Supportive, page 3]

Getting the

A Shared Success

I am delighted to have the opportunity to announce the completion of a project of immense hope for Connecticut: Liberty Safe Haven has opened its doors, with a community-wide opening event scheduled for February 10.

We at Liberty Community Services have the unique opportunity to share with the community on two levels. We are pleased to be able to expand on the life-saving services that Liberty is

known for, while offering our gratitude for the remarkable support of businesses, foundations, individuals and legislators that has enabled us to help those most in need.

The opening of Liberty Safe Haven has come about only through outstanding community enthusiasm and involvement.

Safe Haven's dedication to supporting those in need, and the hope it represents for us all, is a tribute to the many, many people who have given their time, support and resources to this remarkable project.

Together we are making a difference. Gratefully,

Sarah



A World from CEO Sarah D. Caldwell



Please visit our newly updated website at: www.libertycs.org.

[Hope, continued]

homeless, having spent a year or more on the streets, or who have endured repeated episodes of homelessness.

"These people are amazing," says Margaret Patterson, Outreach and Engagement Specialist for Safe Haven and Columbus House. "To hear about homelessness is one thing, but to see where they have stayed outside in the bitter cold— under bridges, in abandoned buildings, in cars— has given me respect for them. They truly are survivors."

The renovation of Liberty Safe Haven, from the single-occupancy efficiency apartments to the offices and common spaces, has been designed to facilitate the transition off of the streets and into a permanent home. In addition, a wide array of services is available for participation on a voluntary basis by consumers, including counseling, living skills assistance, vocational referral, addiction recovery and mental health supports.

But the most critical element to the success of Liberty Safe Haven depends on the dedication, flexibility and expertise of the staff, who are there twenty-four hours a day to lend their support in the process of rebuilding lives.

For Margaret Patterson, the work "has only just begun" when a consumer signs a lease to move in. It is part of a process that takes patience, skill and creativity. "I have a list of people who have slept in the streets for ten or twelve years. My job is to transition them to their new home, to encourage them to develop trust."

Liberty Safe Haven has been created to address the issues of homelessness in a way that is both practical and compassionate. If Margaret Patterson is any indication of the dedication of those who have taken on this life-saving work, the hope represented by Safe Haven is well deserved. When asked about the challenges ahead of her, she replies without hesitation: "I love my job!"

Liberty Community Services

Is Pleased to announce an

Opening Event For Liberty Safe Haven

Thursday, February 10, at 9 a.m.

For directions and details, please contact:

Cindy Kavasansky
(203)495-7600 ext. 1751
cindy.kavasansky@libertycs.org

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Liberty Safe Haven

Word Out

[Supportive, continued]

not only as a compassionate response to the conditions of those in need, but as an inherently practical one as well. People in supportive housing environments experience fewer hospitalizations and make less use of costly crisis-related resources like shelters, treatment programs and other social services.

The same studies have shown that when the issue of homelessness is not addressed, the cost to communities is actually higher than it would have been to provide the supportive housing and services that promote lasting stability and reintegration for individuals and families.

As we work to create long-term solutions for those in need, supportive housing offers a ray of hope that seems to be spreading, changing the desire to end homelessness from an idealistic goal to a realistic plan of action, with tangible results. ■

To apply for Liberty's programs, call Liberty's Supportive Housing Case Manager—Outreach 203.495.7600, ext 1765.



Liberty Safe Haven Apartment Unit



AIDS AWARENESS DAY

Rally and Advocacy Day

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

10:00 a.m.

State Capitol in Hartford

Sponsored by the AIDS LIFE Campaign
For Information, contact:

Andre Deloatch, New Haven Coordinator
andre.deloatch@libertycs.org (203)495-1740 ext 1710 or

Alycia Santilli
alyciasantilli@ctaidshousing.org (860)231-8212

AIDS - Connecticut's Rising Crisis!

Liberty is...

Our Programs and Services

Liberty's mission is focused on offering safe, affordable housing as the crucial first step for individuals confronting issues such as poverty, addiction, mental illness and life-threatening conditions. By providing a stable place to live combined with support services that foster physical and psychological health, independent living skills and the ability to function as an integral part of the community, supportive housing saves lives. By addressing the root causes of homelessness, it reconnects individuals to their families, creates communities and inspires hope.

Depending upon the individual needs of our residents, Liberty's **Transitional Living Program** and **Supportive Living Program** provide transitional and permanent living arrangements that include community space, individual and group counseling, supportive housing case management, addiction and recovery supports, independent living-skills development, vocational referral, transportation, crisis intervention and twenty-four-hour access to staff, in three Victorian homes in New Haven

The **Independent Living Program** offers scattered-site rental assistance, and includes case management, addiction and recovery supports, living-skills development and vocational referral.

Liberty's **Department of Outreach & Supportive Housing Access** provides outreach, assessment, education, and information on supportive housing programs and critical transition case management services, and conducts over one hundred eligibility screenings annually.

Open Door Alliance provides crisis intervention, counseling, supportive housing case management, addiction and recovery supports, living-skills development, vocational referral and rental assistance.

Created to reduce barriers to care and improve the quality of care among social service agencies, **CT CARE** is an innovative program that links six Connecticut non-profits through a technology-based care management system and provides network administration, training and technical support.

Liberty Safe Haven is a model project, open in December, 2004, with thirty-three permanent apartments, which will provide the opportunity for health, stability and social reintegration for chronically homeless adults. ■



Liberty Safe Haven, located in New Haven's historic Ninth Square district, was created through the complete renovation of a former cigar factory, built in 1901.

Liberty's
Transitional &
Supportive
Housing
Programs

You're Invited to Participate

We believe that almost no one freely chooses homelessness, and that given real options and opportunities, nearly everyone would choose the safety, security and sanctuary of a home. Many are eager for change and a new life, with the help of a community that cares for its most vulnerable citizens.

Yes, I want to help spread the word about homelessness and house my neighbors in need.

Please accept my tax-deductible gift of

\$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$_____.

I have enclosed a check made payable to Liberty Community Services.

I'd like to know how to include Liberty in my estate plans.

My gift is in honor/memory of _____.

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Telephone _____

Please return this form to Liberty Community Services, Inc., 254 College St., 2nd Floor, New Haven, CT 06510 • Thank you for your gift!



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254 College St., 2nd Floor • New Haven, CT 06510



I've Got The Power

We all have hidden strengths, waiting to come out.
A talent we secretly nurture, maybe a sport we excel at.

Those living on the streets or struggling with addiction or mental illness are no different. Like all of us, they just need the space and support to get it right.

Liberty Community Services combines housing and supportive services, practical solutions that have a proven record of success in helping people rebuild lives, reconnect with family and find their own hidden strengths.

That's the Power of Liberty

