

# NEWS *from* HOME



From homelessness to hope.

VOL. 10 NO. 4

FALL 2011

## You did it! We received over 400 backpacks!



Pat Mellion (pictured left), NHHR Board of Directors Treasurer, thanks Donna Bruneau-Lester AT&T Pioneer's Council President (pictured right) for the council's backpack and school supply donation.

Thank you to everyone who donated to New Haven Home Recovery's Annual Backpack & School Supplies Drive. The generosity of businesses, civic groups and individuals resulted in donations of over 400 backpacks, countless notebooks, pens, pencils, rulers, glue sticks, color pencils, crayons, composition notebooks, folders, pencil sharpeners, calculators, and highlighters to fill the backpacks. All backpacks with school supplies have been distributed to school-aged children in our New Haven and Bridgeport programs. Because of each you, our students are ready to be the best that they can for the new school year!



### A big thanks to our backpack donors...

Albertus Magnus College School of New Dimensions  
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Carol & Sarah Lukaszek  
Helen Loughlin  
Carol Lukaszek & daughter  
Michael Maddelena  
Jenn McCulloch & WISH Group  
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Trinity Church on the Green  
John & Theresann Viele  
Burt & Donna Vitale  
Marge Vogt  
Bernadette Welsh  
WEBE 108 FM Radio Station  
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Wells Fargo

## Stable Families Awarded Nationally



Pictured from left to right: Kelly McDermott, Senior Manager, Central Grants & Community Development at City of Bridgeport; Nicholas Calace, Executive Director of Bridgeport Housing Authority; Marvin Farbman of Bridgeport Public Housing Resident Support Fund; Kate Kelly, Director Resident Services Bridgeport Housing Authority; Kellyann Day, Executive Director of New Haven Home Recovery; Kara Capone, Director of Programs of New Haven Home Recovery; Blanca Carrasquillo, Deputy Director of Operations Bridgeport Housing Authority; Keishanna McCalmon, Stable Families Program Coordinator of New Haven Home Recovery.

The Stable Families program was awarded a National Association of Housing Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) Award of Merit in Housing and Community Development at the NAHRO Summer Conference in Louisville, KY. NAHRO recognizes projects and programs based on innovation.

"Stable Families is the first program of its kind in Bridgeport and has been welcomed by the community,"

Kara Capone, New Haven Home Recovery's Director of Programs says, "The program is creating change in the community and is helping families stay housed."

Stable Families averts families from eviction. In the last fiscal year, the program had a 99.1% eviction prevention rate and served 115 families.

Stable Families is supported by the Bridgeport Public Housing Residence Support Fund administered by the Fairfield County Community Foundation.



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**Some things change,  
some stay the same**

*A Letter From Kellyann Day, Executive Director*



It is hard to believe that it has been 10 years since the 9/11 tragedy. In some ways, things haven't changed and in other ways, they are very different. I can't help but be shocked when I think about how much has changed since 2001. Ten years ago, my daughter was 2-years-old and this year she started middle school and is transforming into an independent and exemplary young woman. During the summer of 2001, the unemployment rate in New Haven was 3% and today it is 10%. Ten years ago it cost about \$600 to rent a decent 2 bedroom apartment in New Haven or one of the surrounding town, but this year, the rent for the same apartment is \$1100. As I look back to how many phone calls NHHR received from families in need of shelter, I am shocked by the increased numbers. In 2001, NHHR received a total of 335 calls for shelter. In this current year, we received 1,969 calls and the numbers are increasing every day. In August alone our family shelter received 453 phone calls for shelter.

“It makes me feel good to know that our community is just as committed to helping today as they were 10 years ago. In the ensuing decade, 9/11 has come to define America's resilient spirit.”

What has not changed in the past 10 years is our collective commitment to help those in need. This remains as strong today as it was 10 years ago. We are a community dedicated to remembering and honoring those who suffered a personal loss on 9/11/01. No one will forget the victims or the families and how that event changed our lives. Much has been written about how this event brought communities together in order to help those in need, to offer support to victims and their families and to connect neighbors and friends for mutual support. When events such as 9/11 happen, we pull together, for our own benefit and the benefit of others. People open their homes to others, offer their time and donate money to help those in need. This has not changed over the past 10 years. I was recently reminded of this during the recent hurricane.

Many people were without power and some lost their home. Everyone knows someone who needed help and everyone helped someone. Neighbors opened their homes so people could take showers, friends provided food or the use of a generator, civic groups volunteered their time to help clean up, strangers came from out of town to help fix power lines. Events such as 9/11 and hurricane Irene bring out the best in people. NHHR is fortunate that we have front row seats and see the best of people helping people on a daily basis. On a daily basis, we at NHHR see people helping people. We recently asked for backpacks for kids who would otherwise not have them, and the community responded with over 400 backpacks and many school supplies! We have asked for help purchasing uniforms for children who cannot afford them, and the community responded with help.

It makes me feel good to know that our community is just as committed to helping today as they were 10 years ago. In the ensuing decade, 9/11 has come to define America's resilient spirit. There is a growing volunteer movement filled with people determined to erase 9/11's shadows while paying tribute to those who lost their lives. Across the State and the country, people are participating in a National Day of Service and Remembrance on 9/11. What better way to honor the memory of those who died, then to turn the date into something positive.

Sincerely,  
*Kellyann Day*

Kellyann Day, MSW  
Executive Director

*If you are interested in helping at NHHR, please contact Mary Grande at [mgrande@nhhr.org](mailto:mgrande@nhhr.org) or 206.492.4866 x 36.*

*If you would like to receive our News From Home E-Newsletter, visit our website and click on "Join our FREE email mailing list."*

**Stay in touch.**

Visit our web page  
<http://www.nhhr.org> or  
call us at (203) 492-4866.



**Interested in joining our golf committee?**



New Haven Home Recovery will be holding our **1st Annual Golf Tournament** in late summer 2012. If you are interested in serving on the golf committee please contact Mary Grande at 203.492.4866 or [mgrande@nhhr.org](mailto:mgrande@nhhr.org).



## Board Profile: Burton Vitale

### NHHR's

long-term supporter and friend Louis Federici introduced Burton Vitale to the agency. Burton said, "To be associated with an organization like NHHR is a great privilege."

Burton shares his expertise by serving on the board's Fund Development Committee. He graciously donated

a trip to anywhere in the world at this year's auction. Burton is excited to

continue working on fund raising for NHHR this year.

One of Burton's favorite parts about being on NHHR's Board of Directors is, "Knowing that the time and effort put into helping grow the organization will benefit many women and children who would otherwise have nowhere to go and no one to care for them," he continued, "No one should ever have to endure that kind of experience in their life, especially children."

As a husband and parent, Burton is passionate about NHHR's mission and helping give back where he can. At New Haven Home Recovery, there are many ways to help the agency achieve its mission.

"It's been very rewarding knowing that the small part impacts many lives," Burton explained.

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## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Shirley Jackson



"I grew up in economic circumstances that were not always the best and it is really hard to understand as a kid why you do not have something, especially during the holidays. It makes you humble as an adult and makes me want to do what I can to help others."

Shirley learned about NHHR while teaching a social problems course, where her students engaged in service learning in agencies throughout the Greater New Haven area. The Furniture Co-Op was selected as a location for her students to volunteer. Shirley donated furniture to The Furniture Co-Op and started talking to others about New Haven Home Recovery. Not long after she was asked to serve on NHHR's Board of Directors.

Shirley was happy to join the board and is always willing to help others out during difficult times. She enjoys spreading her joy of service learning to her students. Many of Shirley's students have been inspired by her to do volunteer work for NHHR. Shirley loves participating in Adopt-a-Family every year. This year, she got her colleagues to partake in NHHR's holiday drive. "I grew up in economic

circumstances that were not always the best and it is really hard to understand as a kid why you do not have something, especially during the holidays," Shirley continued, "It makes you humble as an adult and makes me want to do what I can to help others."

"NHHR's events are one my favorites things," exclaims Shirley, "I am still amazed at Claude Grazia's willingness to cook those French auction winning meals!"

Shirley was a great help on the auction committee last year and helped out selling raffle tickets the night of the event. Shirley also takes part in the holiday parties at the shelters and collected robes to hand out to the women.

"I love having a connection to NHHR and telling people about what we do and why," Shirley explains.



### 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine Tasting Presented by First Niagara Bank

Spend the evening with NHHR for our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine Tasting presented by First Niagara Bank on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Join us at Kelly's Restaurant & Bar located at 196 Crown Street, New Haven. Taste wine featured by Mt. Carmel Wine & Spirits, while enjoying hors d'oeuvres throughout the night. There will also be chances to win great items at the silent auction table. Tickets are \$50 per person or \$90 per couple. For reservations, visit NHHR's website at [www.nhhr.org](http://www.nhhr.org) or call 203-492-4866 ext.36.



## 170 families adopted last holiday season with your support

It's never too early to start thinking about the holidays. At NHHR, planning for the holidays means making sure all the families we serve have gifts to open as they celebrate the holiday season. With your help NHHR distributed gifts to over 170 families during the 2010 holidays. If you are interested in adopting a family this year, please call Jackie at 203-492-4866.

# Many thanks to...

**Teach for America** teachers who helped prepare items for The Furniture Co-Op Tag Sale.

**Jonathan and Jeffrey Grande** for helping move office furniture at Lucht Hall.

**Carmax of East Haven** for painting the playroom at Lucht Hall.

**James Westwood** for organizing incoming backpack drive donations.

**Yale Divinity School** students for helping with outside clean-up at Martha's Place & CareWays.

**Elizabeth Tagatac** donated her time and talent to the living room and kitchen at CareWays. The rooms are now repainted and have new curtains. The living area has been spruced up with new furniture, pillows, rug, mirror and television all thanks to Elizabeth. In the kitchen, mothers can now sit their children in three new high chairs while they



use the new microwave all donated by Elizabeth.

**Jill Feinberg** who donated storage trays, cabinets, dishes and flatware for CareWays kitchen renovation.

**Hartland, VT First Congregational Church Youth Group** spent a week at various NHHR locations to help with yard clean-up, pressure washing the handicap ramps and rear entrance areas, painted handrails, trimmed trees & bushes, and much more. The youth group has been volunteering for several summers and NHHR looks forward to their return in 2012!

Thank you to **Sightlines of Guilford** for their donations of personal and household linens coordinated with the United Way of Greater New Haven.

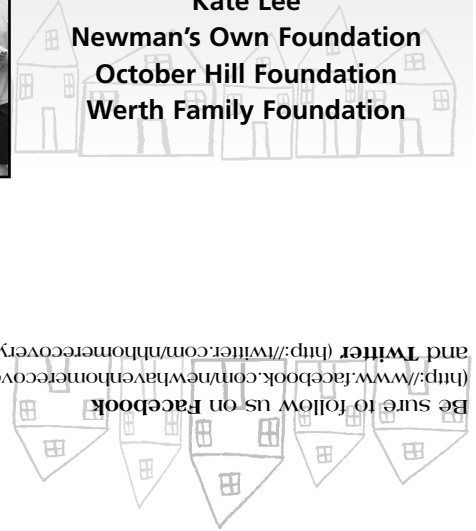


**NHHR extends a very special thank you to those who donated \$1,000 or more in the last few months.**

*Did you know that it now costs \$112 a night to provide a homeless family shelter? We receive \$60 in funding, leaving a \$52 gap for each family every night. YOUR donation helps fill that deficit so we can provide more than just a place for families to stay; we provide the services needed to find housing, employment and educational opportunities to break the cycle of homelessness. Thank you to our funders of \$1,000 over the past few months who have helped NHHR achieve its mission.*

**The Bussman Family Foundation, Inc.**  
**City Missionary Association of New Haven**  
**Fairfield County Community Foundation**  
**JELD Charitable Foundation**  
**Kate Lee**  
**Newman's Own Foundation**  
**October Hill Foundation**  
**Werth Family Foundation**

Be sure to follow us on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/newhavenhomecovery>) and Twitter (<http://twitter.com/nhhomecovery>).



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