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Beth-El Center Newsletter Winter 2019

Dear Friends:

It is my hope that this newsletter finds you well, in the comfort of a warm home, post the holiday rush.



We had an incredible end to 2018, as we saw the need for more hot meals in our Soup Kitchen, greater capacity in our No Freeze shelter and an increase in the complex needs of our 90-day emergency shelter program residents; we also saw a tremendous community response. Many thanks to all who donated their time, goods and dollars to ensure that the needs of the individuals, families and veterans we serve are met, throughout the colder months and all year long. It is because of you that we are able to support clients in accomplishing their goals of self-sufficiency and permanent housing.

We look to 2019 from a position of hope and strength. With the development of a new program and the addition of a new staff member (who you will learn more about in this issue) we are now better equipped to support those most vulnerable in our community. We are also striving to increase program outcome and success. We intend to do this by increasing meals served in our food programs through increased recruitment of volunteer community groups and striving to serve more in our shelter by reducing length of stays and increasing permanent housing placements.

As you will see in this newsletter, there are many new and ongoing ways to become more involved and assist those experiencing homelessness and hunger in our community. I look forward to seeing you at the Center or in the community soon!

Until then,

Jenn

Client Success Stories

Arthritis Disability Results in Job and Housing Loss for Local Man

Steve, age 57, came to the Beth-El Center through our outreach and engagement efforts during our Soup Kitchen lunch service. Steve was diagnosed with severe arthritis which caused him to lose his job as a construction site manager. After using up all of savings and retirement funds, his situation snowballed and resulted in the loss of his housing, forcing him to live in his vehicle.

After staying several nights in our No Freeze winter emergency shelter, Steve was admitted to our 90-day shelter program and began his journey toward reestablishing self sufficiency.

With complex medical issues, Steve worked tirelessly to engage in his healthcare while working to obtain his Social Security Disability Income. He was awarded his Social Security Disability Income with the support and advocacy of our trained staff and housed within 30 days of his award .



“Coming from a situation of complete destitution to being able to obtain resources like Medicaid and food stamps and other benefits while in a safe, stable environment was such a blessing,” said Steve. “Then, with Beth-El’s help, I was able to focus on getting my disability benefits.”

[READ MORE](#)

Mother and Children Find Refuge at Beth-El Center

Vanessa* and her three children came to the Beth-El Center last Fall. They had moved to Connecticut from Virginia in April 2018 fleeing a domestic violence situation. Vanessa is a certified nursing assistant (CNA) who had been unable to find work.

During her time at Beth-El she was able to update her resume and had multiple job interviews for CNA positions. She was matched with Rapid Rehousing and worked with our Housing Specialists for a rapid exit. Within twenty days, our Housing Specialist located a safe and secure unit large enough for this family of four. Vanessa and her family were discharged to permanent housing on December 21st right before the holidays. Before leaving, we helped her register her children in their new school district so they could begin school promptly after the winter break.

**name has been changed for privacy purposes*



Welcome New Soup Kitchen Volunteer Groups!

Employees from two Milford businesses, **McKinnis Inc.** and **Milford Health and Rehabilitation Center**, are each volunteering monthly at Beth-EI Center's soup kitchen. One group will be preparing and serving a meal while the other is preparing a bagged Meals-to-Go.

For their first meal, Milford Health and Rehabilitation Center split the cost of the food with Chili's in Milford.

Learn more about how you can become a Beth-EI Center volunteer!

State of CT Emergency Shelter Statistics

The Beth-EI Center is an efficient and effective organization according to the data from the State of CT Analytics*. The Center operates 1/3 more efficiently than other shelters in the region and statewide. Our average length of stay for Beth-EI Center residents is 68 days, 30% less than the statewide average for emergency shelters.

**Report published 10/2018 uses data from 2016-17*

| SWAP Measure 3: Average Length of Stay (LOS) | |
|--|---|
| 68 days | <i>HMIS enrollment entry/exit dates were used to calculate average LOS for ES, TH, and RRH in calendar year 2016. Not calculated for PSH.</i> |
| 97 days | Statewide ES Avg. LOS |
| 109 days | Greater New Haven ES Avg. LOS |

Community Star Award



We recently recognized Harlow, Adams and Friedman P.C. for their outstanding contributions to the Beth-El Center by recommending them for the Community Start Award.

HAF plans and executes the annual Trick or Trot 5K fundraiser of which we are the beneficiary. We celebrate HAF and Sikorsky Credit Union for their support and fundraising efforts that so greatly help our clients.

Upcoming Fundraisers

Darts Tournament & Rum Runners Performance
A Benefit for Beth-El Center

Thursday March 7, 2019

Registration 5:00pm
Tournament Starts at 5:30pm
Rum Runners take the stage at 7pm

Location : Orange Ale House & Grille

Spectators and Rum Runners fans are Encouraged
*Suggested donation at the door of \$25

w Special Guests
Rum Runners!

With Special Thanks to:

CODY-WHITE FUNERAL HOME
ORANGE ALE HOUSE & GRILLE
MPN MORE PROSPECTS NOW

Visit www.milford-alive.com for event details and to register

Join us for an evening of fun, food, drink and entertainment by the Rum Runners at Milford Alive's first annual **Corporate Challenge Darts Tournament** to benefit the Beth-El Center on **Thursday, March 7th at Orange Ale House.**

Compete for the title of "Best Business in Milford"! Team entries are \$100 each.

- Entries are for a single team consisting of two players.
- Entries are representing local businesses, organizations, or individual groups
- 100% of entry fees goes directly to Beth-El Center
- Each team player receives one free beer, courtesy of Orange Ale House & Grille

[Register Your Team Today!](#)

Buy Delicious Soup from Bobette's to Help the Homeless



February is "Butternut Buddy" Month at Bobette's Take Out, 93 Boston Post Rd, Milford. Enjoy their Butternut Bisque and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Beth-El Center.

Visit Bobette's today and help alleviate homelessness and hunger in our community. **Check out their daily specials!**

Vote for Beth-El in the CarterCares Charity Contest

To celebrate their 30th anniversary, Carter Mario Law Firm is hosting a CarterCares contest to provide one worthy 501(c)(3) organization with \$5,000 to help support their mission in Connecticut.

Please visit their website and cast your vote for the Beth-El Center. Voting ends on April 5th.

[Vote Now!](#)

Beth-El Center Staff Announcements

Elizabeth Zeilik, Outreach and Engagement Coordinator

A few interesting things about Liz:

- Liz is currently enrolled at Southern Connecticut State University and will be attending their School of Social work this fall to start on Bachelor's degree
- She has three years of experience working with the homeless population as a Residential Counselor at the Beth-El Center and two years of experience working in an inpatient rehab for individuals suffering with mental health and substance abuse concerns
- Growing up she always knew she wanted to help people in some way
- Liz believes that if you can help one person change their life for the better then you have helped change the world



Learn more about Liz's role as Beth-El

- Favorite Quote: "Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile" - Albert Einstein
- Liz looks forward to helping serve the clients and community of Milford

Center's Outreach and Engagement Coordinator

Your Donations Provide Hope and Opportunity to Those Who Need It Most



[Make a Donation to Beth-El Center Today](#)

Plan a Legacy Gift

Build a charitable purpose into your estate planning goals. Become part of a growing trend of legacy gifts that help sustain the Beth-El mission. Consult your personal legal and financial advisors to explore legacy planning and how to make a bequest or gift to the Beth-El Center.

Howard B. Treat Jr.

Beth-El Center offers sincere thanks to the estate of the late Howard B. Treat Jr. for encouraging donations be made to the Center in his name. Mr. Treat was an active member of the Orange and Milford communities including Rotary and Red Cross involvement as well as a former CEO of The Milford Bank. We appreciate all he gave to our community.

What We Accomplished in 2018

Last year, Beth-El Center was able to serve an average of **75 individuals per month** in our Soup Kitchen and approximately **29,000 meals** over the course of the year. Additionally, we were able to help more individuals, veterans and families in our 90-day shelter program than in years past. In 2018, our shelter supported a total of **128 singles, veterans and families** ; of our **26 families** including **47 children** in total.



Beth-El Center | 203.876.0747 | www.bethelmlford.org