The Role of Citizenship in Our Lives

THE CONNECTION 2015 ANNUAL REPORT
HOW DO WE MAKE THE CONNECTION? THE CONNECTION IS A STATEWIDE HUMAN SERVICES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY THAT HELPS THOUSANDS OF CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS EACH YEAR WITH ISSUES OF HOMELESSNESS, MENTAL ILLNESS, SUBSTANCE USE, AND COMMUNITY JUSTICE REHABILITATION.

THE CONNECTION’S MISSION: BUILDING SAFE, HEALTHY, CARING COMMUNITIES AND INSPIRING PEOPLE TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL AS PRODUCTIVE AND VALUED CITIZENS.

WE ARE PROUD TO REPORT THAT THE CONNECTION HAS RECEIVED RE-ACCREDTIATION FROM THE COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (COA) COA is an independent, not-for-profit organization that partners with human service organizations worldwide to improve service delivery outcomes by developing, applying, and promoting appropriate best practice standards. Achieving re-accreditation entails review of all aspects of The Connection’s programs and services. COA accreditation has improved the way the agency delivers services to our clients and the community, and has established strategies for continual improvement in the years to come.
This past year, The Connection’s staff assisted more than 13,000 people throughout Connecticut who have experienced trauma in their lives and are struggling with substance use, mental illness, homelessness, and community justice issues. In addition, through The Connection’s Institute for Innovative Practice®, we connect “research to practice” to better serve our clients, raise awareness of societal issues, and promote sound public policy.

**Program Distribution of People Helped**

- **Community Justice Programs**: 2,820
- **Family Support Programs**: 3,569
- **Behavioral Health Programs**: 6,982

As we encourage integrative care, many of our clients receive assistance from more than one Connection program or service.
DEAR FRIENDS,

Research shows that the more individuals feel a sense of belonging, the better their outcomes in mental health counseling, healthy family relationships, community justice rehabilitation, and community integration. This past year, The Connection studied Yale Associate Professor of Psychiatry Michael Rowe’s concept of “Citizenship” as a way to explore and understand the concept of recovery and the role that the community mental health model plays in fostering recovery. A sociologist by training, Professor Rowe is co-director of the Program for Recovery and Community Health at the Yale School of Medicine and a consultant to The Connection. His exploration of outreach to the homeless and the importance of valued social roles for those with mental illness has led to a thirty-year career focused on understanding the concept of recovery and groundbreaking research on the concept of Citizenship.

Professor Rowe defines Citizenship as a “strong connection to the 5 ‘R’s: rights, responsibilities, roles, resources, and relationships. Going along with these 5 ‘R’s is the need for a sense of belonging in one’s community and in society. Citizenship is consistent with social inclusion and community integration. It’s also consistent with the work of personal and social recovery.”

The Agency’s 2015 Conference entitled “Citizenship: Creating the Conditions for Belonging,” brought the concept of Citizenship home to staff throughout the agency. All staff were trained to understand the concept of Citizenship and embrace its practice in their work with clients. By fostering Citizenship through our work with clients at both the individual and community levels, we provide clients with opportunities for peer support and guidance, knowledge and skill building, linkage to community resources, and assistance in navigating other social service systems. Clients are encouraged to make connections with others through shared interests and communal activities, and through engagement in advocacy activities. Staff and clients also work together to integrate their behavioral and primary healthcare.

Samples of the tool developed for determining one’s level of Citizenship are included for your information. Test results can be very useful in helping clients find paths to recovery.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

John LaRosa
CHAIR, THE CONNECTION, INC.

Stephen Angle, PhD
CHAIR, THE CONNECTION FUND, INC.
CITIZENSHIP MEASURE: THINKING ABOUT YOUR LIFE IN GENERAL RIGHT NOW, PLEASE READ EACH STATEMENT AND RATE ON A SCALE OF 1 TO 5 HOW MUCH YOU FEEL THAT THE STATEMENT APPLIES TO YOU.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How much do you feel that...</th>
<th>NOT AT ALL / NEVER</th>
<th>SOMETIMES</th>
<th>A LOT / VERY OFTEN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Your personal decisions and choices are respected</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. You have access to adequate healthcare</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. You can go where you want to go</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. You can make choices about how you spend your money</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. You would have access to public assistance, if needed (disability, unemployment, natural disaster relief, welfare, SSI, Food Stamps, etc.)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stories of Citizenship
Reclaimed
Amelia, age 29, is sitting in the living room at Hallie House in Middletown, one of The Connection’s three programs for pregnant or parenting women in recovery from addictions.

Amelia grew up in Meriden and New Britain and has struggled with addictions since she was a teenager. The path that led to her addiction is a common one. “I had back surgery when I was 14 and was given pain medications. Over time, I became dependent and then started misusing,” Amelia’s substance use continued until she was in her early twenties. But soon after her six-year-old son was born, she went to a program to address her addictions. “I’d lost custody of my kids and wanted to get them back,” she says.

Amelia was in the rehabilitation program for eight and one-half months, did well, and regained custody of her children. She stayed clean for four years. But everything changed when Amelia was diagnosed with cervical cancer.

She began chemotherapy, and then opted for surgery. The chemotherapy, surgery and recovery had devastating effects. “I lost my job, my apartment and had to send my kids to live with their dads.” And she spiraled further downward. “Since I’d lost everything, there was nothing left to lose except my sobriety — and that went as well.”

Horrified by her relapse, she began looking for a recovery program and found Hallie House. “They were very supportive — I’m really grateful.” One of the best decisions Amelia made was to engage fully in therapy. “Therapy has helped me see things from different points of view, and to grow as a person, moving forward rather than being stuck in the past. Therapy is tough — but it’s helping me.”

Amelia graduated from the Hallie House program and moved into her own apartment the following week. She is currently cancer-free and hopes for the best. Amelia’s plans for the future include receiving her high school diploma, regaining custody of her children, and enrolling in a program to be trained as a substance abuse counselor. “I want to take my struggle and turn it into my triumph to help other people.”
Working to Achieve His Goals

John, a recent graduate of the REACH program in Meriden, is one of the program’s great successes.

REACH (Re-Entry Assisted Community Housing) is a statewide, scattered-site supportive housing program for individuals re-entering the community from the correctional system. Case managers work with clients to find appropriate housing and jobs and to develop the skills needed to maintain successful, independent lives within the community.

John, now 31 years old, has been working full-time at a warehouse since September 2015 and in December moved into his own apartment. He has clear plans for the future, which include finding a better job, finishing school, and finding something to invest in.

John grew up in Hartford and worked for a while in his family restaurant. As a youth, he had some minor infractions with the law. But in 2010, a domestic dispute with the mother of his two children resulted in a prison sentence. He was paroled after having served 37 months and went to a halfway house in Hartford. While in prison and at the halfway house, he took advantage of numerous educational opportunities. There he also learned about the REACH program. He applied, was accepted, and immediately began working with The Connection’s case management staff.

When he was ready to move out on his own, he reached out to staff at The Connection Counseling Center, where he was attending groups. They referred him to the federal Access to Recovery and state Basic Needs programs for housing assistance. John is highly motivated and has an excellent work ethic, so he was able to secure employment at a warehouse only a 10-minute walk from his apartment.

And John has dreams. “I want to own my own business — something that’s creative and makes money — maybe something in the food industry.” Now that his life is stable he plans to go back school to get his GED. He understands that everything will come if he keeps working at it.
Housed and Hopeful

On October 9th, Bob moved from his shared room at the Eddy Shelter of Middlesex County to a beautiful, brand-new, one-bedroom apartment at the Winter Grove apartment complex for low-income elderly in Southington. He had been homeless for more than five years.

Born in Reno, Nevada, Bob is a well-traveled man who has lived in many places: San Francisco, Los Angeles, Cleveland, Stamford, Seattle, and Saint Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. His years in Saint Thomas were the result of his parents having semi-retired there. Bob met his wife in Saint Thomas, but soon after they were married, she began to miss her own family who lived in Washington state. So the two of them packed up their belongings and moved from Saint Thomas to southern Washington, where they lived and worked for the next 14 years. Bob and his wife owned a home there.

When Bob’s wife died in 2003, he decided to move back to Connecticut and began working as a power specialist, working mostly with small engines, at a large building supply store. But in 2009, as a result of the economic downturn, Bob lost his job and this led to his homelessness. Bob heard about The Connection’s Eddy Shelter and became a program guest.

While he was at the Eddy Shelter, Bob worked with the shelter’s housing specialist to place his name on waiting lists for housing. But because waiting lists were long, Bob left the shelter and lived in a tent for a while. He returned to the shelter in the cold weather and continued to work with the housing specialist.

And then, Winter Grove opened. Winter Grove is a low-income apartment development by NeighborWorks® New Horizons. The Connection is providing on-site counseling services at the complex. And, several of the apartments are reserved for homeless individuals. Bob says, “It’s so amazing here — it’s almost overwhelming. My apartment backs up to the woods! And the location is great! It will be really wonderful living here.”
Cornerstone Society Established to Benefit New Haven Behavioral Health Clients, Programs

The Connection’s Dwight House Group Home was renamed Cornerstone in early 2015 to honor the Cornerstone legacy and to ensure that the Cornerstone name remains part of the history of mental health services in the New Haven community.

Cornerstone was conceived in 1967 when Joel Finkle, a New Haven businessman, and Dr. Thomas Detre, a psychiatrist at the Yale School of Medicine, gathered together a small group of community leaders to discuss the need for an intensive aftercare service for mentally ill men and women who had been discharged from public and private psychiatric hospitals. Cornerstone, Inc. was officially incorporated on July 17, 1968, and in August 1970, Cornerstone Halfway House opened its doors and began serving 15 adult men and women.

Over the next two decades, Cornerstone, Inc. grew significantly, adding the Norton Court supportive independent residences program, the HUD-funded Pendleton House dual-diagnosis program, and the Park Street Residence. In September 1997, in an effort to expand its operations and include an outpatient clinical service, Cornerstone began collaborating with Alcohol Services Organization of South Central Connecticut, Inc. (ALSO, Inc.). The two organizations merged formally in December 2001 under the name ALSO-Cornerstone, Inc.

In 2010, after a period of affiliation and collaboration, ALSO-Cornerstone, Inc. merged with The Connection. The partnership between ALSO-Cornerstone and The Connection has been highly successful, resulting in the agency’s continued growth in the areas of behavioral health, supportive housing, and community justice in New Haven and beyond.

On May 14, a gala reception was held in New Haven to announce the formation of the Cornerstone Society, that supports the needs of the clients and recent graduates of our New Haven-based behavioral health programs. Gifts to the Cornerstone Society not only honor the Cornerstone legacy, but also serve the needs of some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

For information about supporting the Cornerstone Society, please contact Claire Bien at 860 343-5500, x1601.
The Connection Institute for Innovative Practice®
The Connection Institute, the research division of the agency, was pleased to lead the way in bringing the concept and practice of citizenship to the agency this year, as featured in the annual conference held at Wesleyan University in October 2015. The conference featured the work of Dr. Michael Rowe, a senior research consultant to The Connection Institute, who has pioneered the work of helping those individual most on the margins of society feel a greater sense of belonging and participation.

The Institute is embarking on a major initiative to bring Dr. Rowe’s Citizenship framework into the agency. In 2015, Institute staff piloted the Citizenship Measure, featured in this Annual Report, to 180 residents of our community justice residential programs. The results were surprising and hopeful: they showed a greater degree of self-reported belonging and engagement among our clients than we would have expected. We will be bringing the measure to all clients of the agency in 2016, as well as applying for a $2.5 million federal grant to bring the full Citizenship intervention — comprised of classes, peer support, and valued role projects in the community — to Connection clients in 2016.

The Connection Institute is also excited to report the hiring of Bandy Lee, MD, a Yale psychiatrist, as a consultant to the Institute in 2015. Dr. Lee also is serving as the agency’s part-time Medical Director. She is an internationally renowned expert in violence prevention, and consultant to the World Health Organization on these issues. She has published 100 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. She has made immediate contributions to the Institute and the agency, and we are delighted to be working with her.
THE CONNECTION FUND IS THE DIVISION OF THE CONNECTION THAT DEVELOPS STATEWIDE INNOVATIVE HOUSING SOLUTIONS AND ALLOWS THE CONNECTION TO OWN A RANGE OF FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT. AS PART OF THE CONNECTION’S DEDICATION TO TRANSFORMING LIVES, WE SEEK TO CREATE POSITIVE LIVING SPACES THAT WE WOULD LIVE IN OURSELVES. READ ON FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE LATEST CONNECTION FUND INITIATIVES.

PROFILE: WINTER GROVE

In partnership with town and state officials and The Connection, NeighborWorks® New Horizons opened Winter Grove, a 40-unit apartment complex for low-income elderly (62 and above) in Southington in November. The Connection provides on-site counseling services to Winter Grove. This state-of-the-art facility includes a laundry area, lounges, craft room, community room, and tenant storage designed according to EnergyStar standards.

Winter Grove fills a pressing need in Connecticut, as more than 12 percent of the population is over 65. The unit is one of only two of its kind in Connecticut, and will help address the overwhelming need for affordable housing for the elderly. Clients who have been homeless with untreated health needs are at far greater risk of getting sicker and requiring much more costly and complex care.

“Despite the stigma that surrounds the term ‘affordable housing,’ this project will serve a diverse population and help residents in desperate need of housing, while using little in terms of public services.”

U.S. SENATOR RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
The Connection recently celebrated the opening of Milestone Apartments, a 30-unit permanent supportive housing development in Bridgeport. Envisioned as a cornerstone development in the city’s East End, it was built by Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust (BNT) and combines supportive and affordable units with market rate housing designed to serve low-income adults with special needs, particularly veterans. The Connection serves as the facility’s service provider.

The first floor of the complex has 9,000 square feet of commercial space that is home to an early learning center operated by Action for Bridgeport Community Development, Inc. (ABCD). BNT has a long-standing relationship with the City of Bridgeport and has a direct grassroots connection with the East End Neighborhood Revitalization Zone (NRZ), civic groups, and various governmental entities in the city.
Joey Logano Supports Second Chances at The Connection

Always one to go fast, Joey Logano proved he can push the limits on anything with four wheels — even if it is a golf cart! The 2015 Racing for Hope event held on July 16 in Portland was a partnership between The Joey Logano Foundation and The Connection. The event hosted 96 golfers at Quarry Ridge Golf Course along with 310 dinner guests at Saint Clements Castle. Attendees were able to celebrate Joey’s racing roots while supporting two charities working to make a positive impact for those in need.

Family and friends from the community spent the day with the driver of the #22 Shell Penzoil Ford as he motored his golf cart through the course, occasionally taking a swing. At dinner, guests listened as he and emcee Mike Massaro, from NBC Sports, traded racing stories on the stage. Proceeds from the event benefitted Logano Place, a transitional housing program for homeless adults run by The Connection.

Joey was thrilled with the day’s turnout. “We had such an amazing day. To see hundreds of supporters take time to celebrate with us was inspiring. From this event, Logano Place received over $50,000 in funding to continue assisting homeless adults who are working to recover from behavioral health and substance abuse issues. This funding will be used to provide these individuals a second chance.”

In 2014, Logano Place opened at The Connection with a $35,000 donation from the Joey Logano Foundation. “We are grateful for the tremendous support that Joey has provided to our program,” said Peter Nucci, President and CEO of The Connection. “Logano Place has given its residents reason to have hope for the future,” he added.
Nearly 1,000 participants raced through beautiful Bushnell Park in Hartford on August 6, for the CFA Society Corporate 5K event, benefitting The Connection. With strong support from the CFA Society — Hartford, and organized by Race Director John Bysiewicz of JB Sports, the event raised over $10,000 for The Connection’s programs. Join us for our next race on August 4, 2016!

The Connection hosted another successful Greater New Haven Pizza Fest on June 18, 19, 25 and 26 on the New Haven Green, in partnership with the International Festival of Arts and Ideas. All proceeds support The Connection’s New Haven programs. 2016’s event will be held on June 16, 17, 23 and 24.
TOTAL GRANT EXPENDITURES BY SERVICE AREA
FY 2015

$ 8,172,962  BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
$ 14,861,380  COMMUNITY JUSTICE
$ 22,197,574  FAMILY SUPPORT
$ 45,231,916  TOTAL

HOW WE USE THE DOLLARS

89%
DIRECT Services to clients and communities, including counseling, evaluations, community service work, food, housing, care, guidance, supervision and monitoring.

11%
INDIRECT General leadership and management services including planning, program and fund development, accounting, audits, legal and personnel support, board support and community relations.
THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING CARING INDIVIDUALS, COMPANIES AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO SUPPORTED THE CONNECTION’S MISSION BY MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AGENCY IN FISCAL YEAR 2015*.

*12 MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2015
The Connection 2015 Annual Report / 2015 Supporters

Supporters

A-1 TOYOTA
A.R. MAZZOTTA EMPLOYMENT SPECIALISTS
DR. GLOSTER B. AARON AND DR. KATHERINE ALLOCO
ABATE APIZZA & SEAFOOD RESTAURANT
ACTIVE NETWORK
AETNA FOUNDATION
AGENCY ON AGING OF SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT
AMBERLANDS REALTY CORP.
RAELEEN ANDERSON
ANGELA’S FINE JEWELRY
ANTONIO’S HOME FURNISHINGS, LLC
RAYMOND AND LIZ ARCHAMBAULT
ARTHUR J. GALLAGHER & COMPANY
ASF ENTERPRISES
WILLIAM AND SHEILA BARBER
BARE WOOD FURNITURE
MARIE BAYLEY
STEPHEN AND ELISKA BAYLEY
BEACON PRESCRIPTIONS
LISA MARIE BELLMORE
JULIA BERGER
AURORA A. BERNARDINO
MR. & MRS. JOSEPH BIBISI
CLAIRE BIEG
BJ’S CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
BOB’S STORES

TAMARA M. BOBER
JOHN BOCCALATTE AND DR. MICHELE SALONIA
BILL AND MARYANN BONGIORNO
LEE ANNE BORKOWSKI AND FAMILY
DR. AND MRS. HAROLD D. BORSTEIN, JR.
ROBERT AND DEBORAH BURNSIDE
RUTHANNE CANTO
MICHAEL CARASONE
MAUREEN CARNEY AND JOHN COX
LIBBY CARRIER
CBS, A XEROX COMPANY
CDW DIRECT, LLC
CELTS SLEEPMETAL, INC.
RICHARD AND MARIE CHABAK
CHABASO BAKERY
CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
CITY MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF NEW HAVEN
CLEAN THE WORLD
COLBY DIRECT DELIVERY
DAN COLLINS
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR GREATER NEW HAVEN
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY
STEVE AND TINA CONLIN
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 MENTAL HEALTH CENTER
CONNECTICUT URGENT CARE CENTERS, LLC
BETH CONNOR
CONSTITUTION ADVISORY GROUP
CONTINUUM HOME HEALTH, INC.
CONTROLLED AIR, INC.
CORPORATION FOR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING
ALEXANDRA COURY
CROMWELL DENTAL
BETSY AND MICHAEL CRONIN
BARBARA CROUT
LYNN, EDWARD AND NICK CURELLO
LOUIS CUTILLO
CYNTHIA CZYZ
D 8 T INVESTMENTS, LLC
DA LABAGNE
GLEN DAMBOISE
ALISSA K. DEJONGE, IN MEMORY OF ROBERT AND PAULA DEJONGE
LISA DEMATTEIS-LEPORE
DERIC J. CURRIE INSURANCE AGENCY
STEPHEN H. DEVOTO
NATASHA DHUPAN
MARCIE DIMENSTEIN
GREGG DIXON
JOHN P. DUCA
WAYNE DUFF
DANA DUNN
MATT DUSENBERRY
DAVID AND NANCY EARLY
FRANCINE EARLY
EDGEHILL REALTORS AT PEARCE/ JUDITH NORMANDIN

FAMILIES IN CRISIS
FAMILY FORD OF ENFIELD
GEOFF FARINA
FARRELL, GENTY, SHEELEY, BOCCALATTE, & GUARINO, PC
GRADY AND JENNETTE FAULKNER
JUDITH FELTON
PETER AND AMY FERRIS

SUSAN FINN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, PORTLAND
FIRST NIAGARA BANK FOUNDATION
TOM AND KAREN FORSCHNER
CHRISTINA FRANCO
PETER AND LAURIE FRENZEL
FUNK BOILER WORKS
DONNA GALIN
DEBBIE GARAVEL
KATHI GEISLER, IN HONOR OF JERRY ROSS
MICHELLE GIARDINA
JAMES AND ALISON GILCREST
GIVEGREATER.ORG
DONNA GOLDEN, PH.D.
CHUCK GOODWIN
GOODY’S HARDWARE AND PAINT
DIANE GORDON
PATTY GORDON
ALEXANDRA L. GOROVSKAYA
DAVID GRAY-CLEARY
HAMDEN HIGH SCHOOL
LISA AND GLENN HANSEN
HARTFORD CFA SOCIETY
HARTFORD COURANT MEDIA GROUP
BUDDY AND MISSY HARTMANN & FAMILY
HAVE A HAT FOR HUMANITY
HEAD 2 TOE UNISEX SHOP
THANK YOU.
The Connection
Community-based Services, Advocacy and Research for Connecticut