As we begin the new fiscal year, I am excited by the wealth of opportunities that lay ahead for New Reach and for the amazing clients we serve. In the last twelve months, the state, the homeless services system, and this agency have collectively celebrated tremendous progress towards ending homelessness in CT.

CT became the first state to end veteran homelessness and is set to end chronic homelessness this year. Thousands of those in need have benefited from the successful implementation of regional coordinated access networks which have effectively pooled community resources and prioritized homeless services based on need. At New Reach, we celebrated the opening of our newest facility, Geller Commons, which created 33 much-needed new units of supportive and affordable housing in the town of Hamden. We provided services to more than 2,000 clients in need across New Haven and Fairfield Counties.

In this time of economic and political uncertainty, our commitment to building hopeful futures for those experiencing homelessness and poverty is more critical than ever.

New Reach continues to be blessed with that magical combination of talented staff, dedicated volunteers, and steadfast community partners, and for that I am eternally grateful. Together, we continue to move the needle on homelessness in our state by balancing quality program delivery with strategic investment in our infrastructure. This combination informs our organizational strategic planning, and will ensure our sustainability well into the future.

I am so proud to be a part this wonderful organization. As ever, I am grateful to the New Reach family of supporters, volunteers, staff and service partners that invest in and commit to our mission each and every day. In this time of economic and political uncertainty, our commitment to building hopeful futures for those experiencing homelessness and poverty is more critical than ever.

Thank you for all that you do to make the dreams of our clients a reality.

With gratitude,

Kellyann Day, LMSW
Chief Executive Officer
Case Notes: Working with the Chronically Homeless in Fairfield County
By Adriana Rocca, Critical Time Intervention Case Worker in Norwalk

Adriana Rocca, CTI Case Worker in Norwalk, recently shared her experience working with Paul, a Danbury man who had been homeless on the streets for multiple years. Seven months ago, Paul began receiving services from New Reach, and has taken tremendous strides toward turning his life around completely. The client’s homelessness stemmed from alcoholism and several other compounding life situations, and he claimed that his primary concern for many years was how he would get more alcohol. However, due to his perseverance and with the assistance of Catholic Charities, Paul was prioritized for housing and was able to find his new home. Since being housed, he has maintained thirteen months of sobriety, reconnected with family members, and has begun working toward his personal goals.

Paul has always thanked Catholic Charities and New Reach for the services they have provided to him. He has stated on multiple occasions that although he is sixty years old, he is finally starting his life. As his Case Manager, Adriana states, “I know this was not my doing, but I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to have worked with Paul and see all his greatness.” Although she acknowledges that it is sometimes difficult to measure how much impact a Case Manager has on a client, Adriana is confident that she provided Paul with all the support he needed to work toward his goals. Adriana and the entire New Reach team applaud Paul for his determination in overcoming the struggles that affected him through so much of his life, and look forward to his continued success.

*Name has been changed out of respect for the client’s privacy

Geller Commons, New Reach’s newest supportive and affordable housing building, is now the home of a man who had spent the majority of his life homeless. The last time Tom* had a place to stay that was fit for human inhabitation was in 1981. After struggling with addiction and mental health issues for over a decade, Tom was housed at Geller Commons on May 11th with the assistance of New Reach, and has been residing there ever since.

New Reach case worker Dianna Cabrera has been visiting Tom regularly since he was housed, and states that “the client is extremely grateful for this opportunity, and to this day he cannot believe all that New Reach has done for him. He thinks the details that New Reach put into the apartments, down to getting him toiletries, shows more than we could possibly imagine.” He has gained weight since he has been residing at Geller due to having the stability and support to get healthy, and his continued efforts in fighting his drug addiction. Tom is very grateful to finally have a place to live after all these years, and is determined to make the best of this opportunity.

*Name has been changed out of respect for the client’s privacy

Enjoy Golf? Join New Reach as we participate in the 2016 Travelers Championship Golf Tournament Birdies for Charity to be held August 1-7, 2016. A pledge-based or flat rate donation fundraiser allows New Reach to receive an additional 15% bonus (on all received donations) thanks to the generosity of CohnReznick sponsorship. For more information or to register visit our website www.newreach.org.
Jane* is a 47-year-old single mother who was struggling to find employment and support her young child. With no family support available, her bills started piling up, and she was feeling disheartened when she was unable to find a decent paying job. She came to New Reach for help.

With the help of New Reach Housing and Employment Specialist Colleen Keyes, and New Reach Case Worker Tanya Chirsky, Jane began to plan for her future. Colleen stated that, “Jane is a very motivated individual who strives to conquer her goals in order to have a successful future for her and her daughter.” Jane was initially embarrassed by her vulnerable position, and felt that she was too old to go back to school to get a good job, but she soon began to take the necessary steps to achieve her goals.

After Jane revealed to the case workers that her dream was to open her own food truck, Colleen was able to help enroll her in a Professional Food and Beverage course at Gateway Community College through the Secure Jobs Program. Jane completed the course, and immediately after passing her SafeServ test and getting certified, she was hired at a new up-and-coming restaurant. According to Colleen, Jane is “beyond excited, and appears to have a whole new perspective and hope for a better future, and fulfilling her dream of working in hospitality.” Jane’s case workers are extremely proud of her hard work and perseverance, and look forward to seeing what she accomplishes in the future.

*Name has been changed out of respect for the client’s privacy

Healthy Start Program provides critical services to young mothers

The New Reach Healthy Start Program works to improve birth outcomes and health for pregnant women, new mothers and infants. Last month a Healthy Start client was at risk of losing custody of her child and came to her New Reach case worker for help. The Department of Child and Family Services (DCF) was concerned that lack of an appropriate and safe sleeping place for an eight-month-old baby girl was putting her at risk. The mother’s funds and income are very limited, and at the time, her daughter only had a broken, unsafe pack-and-play to sleep in. The client informed New Reach that she had an upcoming DCF visit, where they were due to inspect her house and the child’s sleeping area. She explained that she was fearful of having her daughter taken away for not having a crib, and her caseworker immediately jumped into action to find her help.

With donations from the community, New Reach was able to provide this young family with a gift card for $150.00 to purchase a crib and pass their DCF inspection. For many New Reach clients these seemingly small financial barriers can mean the difference between maintaining and losing custody of a child – which can have catastrophic generational impacts for a family. This client was fortunate to have the New Reach community to turn to. New Reach is fortunate to have such dedicated staff and generous donors, without whom we would be unable to serve those who come to us for help.

Vertical Church volunteers with New Reach’s Mary Grande; Vertical Church volunteers have provided New Reach with many hours of service and always help out wherever they can.

92% of homeless women have experienced significant interpersonal violence
On June 6th, the New Reach Shelter Team partnered up with the New Haven Parks and Recreation Department to participate in a cleanup of Trowbridge Square Park in New Haven. One of the Shelter Team’s goals was to find and participate in volunteer projects in the community. The team chose this particular park to clean up because it is located directly behind the Martha’s Place and CareWays shelters, and is often used by the shelter clients.

A large part of the Shelter Team’s daily efforts involve attending community meetings and making connections to different community resources, and they are very grateful to Parks and Recreation for providing the necessary supplies for this cleanup. In turn, the Parks and Recreation employees who were there with the team were very thankful for the extra help, and encouraged everyone to spread the word that volunteer projects such as this are extremely valuable to the city. New Reach is proud to be a participating member of the communities in which we work.

New Reach relies on the generous support of the community to achieve our mission. A very special thank you to the following community partners:

- St. Francis Church of New Haven for the pocketbook sale and auction they organized to benefit New Reach
- The Elm Campus Partners for their day of service at Life Haven
- Medtronics Regulatory Affairs for their cleaning of the attic at Life Haven
- The Christian Tabernacle Baptist Church for their continued support of the women at Martha’s Place
- The Vertical Church Volunteers for their monthly day of beauty and regular cleaning of the shelters
- Milano and Wanat for organizing the annual snowball softball tournament, which benefits the shelter operations
- Robin Selatti Voice Studio Students for their April performance to benefit New Reach
- Guilford High School Senior Teddi Stanley for selecting New Reach as one of her charities of choice after receiving the Liberty Bank Youth in Action Award

New Reach honors Wells Fargo and Turnbridge

On June 16th, New Reach held its 2nd Annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast, where long-time supporters Wells Fargo and Turnbridge were honored. Wells Fargo has been partnering with New Reach since 2011. Wells Fargo employees have donated their time assisting with New Reach events, and also organizing their own volunteer events. Volunteers come from all Wells Fargo locations to support New Reach and its mission.

Turnbridge volunteers have been essential to the successful operation of The Furniture Co-op over the last four years. As the TFC has only one paid staff member, Ralph Morrow, Turnbridge plays a crucial role in providing the staffing needed to make the Furniture Co-op succeed. Members of Turnbridge help to organize the warehouse, help make deliveries, and pick up furniture. The dedication of Turnbridge has allowed the TFC to continue its mission of turning empty houses into homes.

Thank you to Wells Fargo and Turnbridge for their continued support of the New Reach mission!
New Reach Chief Operating Officer Kara Capone was one of the 5,000 women invited to attend the United State of Women Summit on June 14th and 15th in Washington DC. Among these invitees were some prominent figures in the country who have demonstrated a commitment to Women’s Issues, including President Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, and House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, among many others.

The Summit, the first of its kind in the country, focused on six main topics affecting women today: Economic Empowerment, Health and Wellness, Educational Opportunity, Violence Against Women, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and Leadership and Civic Engagement. The 5,000 attendees were invited based on their ideas and leadership in different areas concerning Women’s Issues, and Kara was one of 100 of these women who received special recognition as “Nominated ChangeMakers”. Kara stated that “It was amazing to be with so many other incredible women from around the country,” and was thrilled that she got to meet and interact with all of these women from such diverse backgrounds.

Congratulations to Kara for having been awarded this amazing opportunity! For more details and video footage of the speakers, visit http://www.theunitedstateofwomen.org/

New Reach Recovery Assistant Rosa Rosa was honored by the Bridgeport Re-Entry Collaborative at their 5th Annual Awards Ceremony on April 29th at Housatonic Community College. The Awards Ceremony honors Bridgeport activists, partners, and former offenders who have demonstrated a commitment to effective reintegration. Awards were issued for Personal Achievement, Professional of the Year, and Community Partner of the Year, and Rosa received one of the Personal Achievement awards. The speakers at the event included Bridgeport Mayor Joseph Ganim, Senator Richard Blumenthal, and State Senators Ed Gomes (of Bridgeport) and Tony Hwang (of Fairfield). Rosa’s award was for her efforts volunteering for an agency called CCAR (Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery), where she helps individuals recover from drug and alcohol addictions.

Thank you to Rosa Rosa for her outstanding efforts volunteering with CCAR, and congratulations to her for receiving this honor! 💫
**Summer on the Sound**

**A BENEFIT FOR LIFE HAVEN**
Thursday, August 11, 2016
6 - 8:30 pm
RSVP by August 1, 2016
Reserve by July 28 and receive six free raffle tickets at registration
Ticket price: $60
Gold Ticket: $100
$20.00 of each standard ticket price is tax-deductible in accordance with Internal Revenue Service regulations.

*Purchase tickets online at www.newreach.org*

**HONORING**
Barbara Nelson
For her longtime service and dedication to the women and children at Life Haven

**RAFFLE**
OPEN BAR 6 - 7 pm
BARBECUE BUFFET
Owenego Beach & Tennis Club
40 Linden Avenue,
Branford, CT

Children who experience homelessness are 60% more likely to become homeless as adults