Join us for our

20th Annual Celebration Auction

Wednesday, April 24th 2019

5:30 - 8:30 pm

Anthony’s Ocean View, New Haven

One night. One mission. One community.

Again, this year, we are offering Mobile Bidding!

Questions? Contact the development office
mgrande@newreach.org or call (203) 492-4866 x 119

We can’t wait to see you there!

Register Now:


You can bid on exciting new auction items like these:

- Four Grandstand tickets to the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade
- A week in January in Pompano Beach, FL
- A New England lobster bake
- Four Field Level MVP tickets to Yankee Stadium

Children who experience homelessness are 60% more likely to become homeless as adults
Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Maimonides, the renowned scholar and philosopher, thought wisely about duty, good deeds and charity. The holiest forms of giving, he wrote, came from those who offered honestly, voluntarily and quietly — or even anonymously.

Maimonides’ teachings enlightened the thinking of the 12th Century, so he could not have known Will and Debbie Colwell. But it is clear that he could foresee the type of wonderful, thoughtful, caring people Will and Debbie, our 2019 Auction honorees, have embodied every day of their lives.

Will and Debbie have been generous and devoted to New Reach for many years, ever since they helped guide the then just-founded Lewis G. Schaeneman Jr. Foundation to support a then financially-struggling Life Haven two decades ago and, subsequently, the merger with New Reach.

Yet their dedication to this community did not start or end there. In fact, the list of organizations and people they have helped — sharing both their time and seemingly unbounded energy, along with their resources — is almost too long to recite.

But let me try!

Will was chairman of the board of the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven. Through that involvement, he and Debbie have generously supported a wide range of New Haven community efforts, including New Reach. It is a remarkable record! Asked what principle or concern runs through their devotions, Will said there are two: a deep-seated understanding that children must be cared for, especially those in dire straits “through no fault of their own,” and a recognition that those who have advantages — both had caring families and great educations — in turn have a duty to help those with few resources.

“It was kids and it was homelessness,” Debbie said. “We have to start early with children so they are on the right track. We were struck by what we saw at Life Haven. Without shelter, those children and their parents would be sleeping in the back seat of a car.”

Said Will: “It’s important that we all look around our community and see that there are some who need help and must ask, and some who can help and must respond.”

He and Debbie have long taken active roles supporting organizations ranging New Haven’s Clifford Beers Clinic — named for the acknowledged founder of the American mental hygiene movement — that helps children and families confronting mental illness, to Emerge Connecticut Inc., which helps those formerly incarcerated and at-risk youths.

I could go on and on. Will has been president of the Boy Scouts of America, Debbie got her start with the Junior League. There isn’t the room or the time to list all their activities. But that isn’t the point.

The true measure of their value to this community, and to New Reach, is the example they set for the rest of us. They are a team — “We work together to decide who can best benefit from our help,” Debbie says — and in that way stand for the values of cooperation and respect. New Reach values!

In other words, we at New Reach are honored to honor them. If every person, every couple, every family did even a fraction of what Will and Debbie have done to help thousands and thousands of people in our region, virtually all our problems would disappear.

Thank you both, for everything.

Sincerely,

Kellyann Day, LMSW
Chief Executive Officer

37% of households in CT are at risk of experiencing homelessness
Anese

When a mother of two is homeless, has lost two of her three jobs and is struggling with payments on a car she depends on - the car she has been sleeping in while going to nursing school - it takes a certain toughness to keep fighting.

But, for Anese, all the toughness she could muster wouldn’t have been enough without Jamie Mahaffey by her side. “We weren’t going to stop until we found Anese an apartment,” says Mahaffey, a caseworker in New Reach’s Rapid Rehousing program. “And so I told her to keep her chin up, to just keep telling the realtors and landlords the true story of what’d happened to her and we’d keep looking and forget about the people who said ‘No’ until one said ‘Yes.’” One did, finally. And that is why Anese, with her 17-year-old son and 15-year-old daughter, are ensconced in a clean, well-appointed, comfortably heated 3-bedroom apartment in Shelton.

At one point, that didn’t seem possible.

“I had two full-time jobs, as a home health aide at $11/hour and doing customer service for $17/hour and then my client died, and my contract ended on the customer service job, so I had one part-time job and a $1,350/month apartment in Bridgeport I couldn’t afford,” Anese said. “I was working so much I would only see my children for the 25 minutes I could stop home to take a shower. And then I started getting behind.” Eviction proceedings began, and then her car was almost repossessed. “It gets to the point where it gets so crazy and stressful,” Anese said. “And then it all just fell apart at one time.”

And it didn’t get better for awhile. Her family was split apart. Her son stayed with her ex-husband, her daughter with other family, and Anese stayed with her sister, then slept in her car. “I was going to nursing school, doing my homework in the car, sleeping in the corner of the McDonald’s parking lot, but I was switching between two different lots so the workers wouldn’t learn to recognize my face.”

After six months, the family was reunited into a shelter in Bridgeport. Anese continued school and became licensed as a patient care associate and certified nurse’s assistant. But she knew the shelter wasn’t the answer. “It’s easy to get into that lack of motivation because you’ve been beaten down so much,” she said. “And it’s totally easy to dial 2-1-1 and wait to get into the shelter where you have zero worries. There’s light, there’s heat, there’s food. You can stay a long time and be comfortable with someone else doing the footwork for you. But I have to be independent. I don’t know any other way to do it. Plus the kids have been through so much trauma, I wanted something to go right for them.”

That’s where New Reach came in. Under the Rapid Rehousing Program, Anese got case management services as well as help finding an apartment. Her job, in Wallingford, is far from her children’s magnet school in Bridgeport. She needed an apartment in between so she could see her children and not spend all her time on the road. “They gave me a plan and a budget and said ‘Here’s what you need to do,’” Anese said. “New Reach gave me the opportunity and it’s worked.” New Reach provided her security deposit and first month’s rent. For the first three months after moving into her apartment in January, Anese will spend 30% of her income on rent, with New Reach paying the difference. That will rise to 40% for the next three months, 45% for the next three months and 50% for months 10-12.

After a year, she will be on her own, paying for everything herself. The year will allow her time to solidify her finances and find enough work to pay her expenses. To that end, she is scheduled to finish her schooling in October to become a licensed practical nurse. “We can’t be sure where things will stand after the full year, so we’ve worked on budgeting and planning based on different scenarios,” Mahaffey says. As a result, Anese has a job, a home for her family, and both a plan and new hope for the future.

“This program at New Reach helps people be independent,” she says. “It’s outlined for you, what you need to do. It’s scary to have two children and be homeless. But they give you the opportunity so you can show your children that you can get up and make things better.”

92% of homeless women have experienced significant interpersonal violence
Youth age 12 to 17 are more at risk of homelessness than adults.

A very special thank you to the following for hosting events on behalf of New Reach this quarter: Peter Scranton and Sher Walton; Linda Stephens, Jerry Montanari and Darin Montanari of Powerhouse Gym; Silk n’ Sounds; Jordan’s Furniture; the Yale University Community; and Yale Hunger and Homelessness Action.

Thank you to all who took part in New Reach’s Annual Adopt a Family program. Over 200 families and businesses took part in making the holiday brighter for 217 families.

Michael Holmes is the Senior Vice President of Operations at Yale New Haven Hospital. He is originally from South Bend, Indiana and has been in the healthcare industry for over 30 years. Michael has vast experience with neighborhood associations including the Neighborhood Housing Association, Habitat for Humanity, Big Brothers Big Sisters and Neighborhood Watch groups. Currently, he is on several boards of New Haven organizations, including Habitat for Humanity, Chapel Street West and United Way of Greater New Haven.

David Kadamus has retired after a successful professional career helping non profits, specifically Colleges and Universities, manage their facilities, optimize their capital investments, and improve the facility alignment with institutional goals. David founded Sightlines in 2000 and the firm successfully serves 500+ colleges, universities and non profit organizations. Currently he focuses time on his wife Pam and their children. David serves on several non profit boards and enjoys golf, photography, and working on a few building projects each year.

Grace Whitney, PhD, MPA, IMH-IV, is a developmental psychologist and currently serves as Director of Early Childhood Initiatives for SchoolHouse Connection, a Washington, DC based organization that works to end homelessness through education. She was formerly Director of Connecticut’s Head Start State Collaboration Office for over 20 years, and has held a variety of faculty, clinical, and administrative positions in her 45 year career in early childhood, mental health and human services fields. She and her family live in North Haven.

New Reach welcomes Michael Holmes, David Kadamus & Grace Whitney to our Board of Directors.

Support TFC. www.newreach.org to learn how.