

JOURNEY HOME



**Annual
Report
2016**



Welcome from Journey Home's Executive Director

Greetings!

2016 was a busy year for Journey Home, and we are excited to share with you all the ways we worked to end chronic homelessness in Greater Hartford. Outstanding new initiatives, collaborative partnerships and successful campaigns have been the foundation of our work. We are building on this momentum and continue to expand the scope of our innovative solutions to homelessness, with a focus on empowering our community and increasing sustainability. We hope that you will enjoy learning about our work as much as we love doing it.

Some of this year's highlights included:

- Connecticut declares an end to Veteran's Homelessness
- Governor Malloy announced that due to unprecedented housing efforts, Connecticut is able to match every verified chronically homeless individual to permanent housing. Journey Home is proud to have been a part of this incredible achievement, and we are grateful to our many community partners for their years of effort to make such amazing progress.
- Journey Home spearheaded the Point-in-Time Count of all people in the Greater Hartford region experiencing homelessness. People in emergency shelters, transitional housing, safe havens, and outdoor living were counted.



Our thanks to all of you as you hold us up as partners, collaborators, friends, and supporters.

With gratitude,

Matt Morgan

Community and Civic Engagement



Our Making a House a Home program provided furniture and household items to those moving from homelessness into their very own home. During this last year we were able to serve over 130 clients in 10 cities and towns. We had over 85 volunteers participate in the program, with 35% volunteering more than once.

All in all we dedicated over 1,000 hours to making a House a Home in 2016. We also grew our program in unique and innovative ways. The addition of a part-time staff person to manage the program has allowed us to expand what we do and how we do it.

Our partnership with Admiral Storage in South Windsor has allowed us to collect and gather much-needed items for clients, our volunteer base has grown exponentially over the last year allowing us to serve more clients, we have added two “Move-In Days” per month which allows us to organize large groups of volunteers who can help move 4-6 clients into their home in one day, and we are still busy matching volunteer groups to people moving from homelessness to housing. Making a House a Home is a vibrant program that allows us to meet a very basic need while engaging the wider community in our work and mission.



Jimmie's Story

Jimmie Smith graduated from Journey Home's Aerospace Employment Placement Program last spring. Like everyone, Jimmie has an important story to tell. He has history. He has a past. But, he never allowed that past to get in the way of his future.

Jimmie found Journey Home while living at Open Hearth in Hartford. He wanted a second chance, a new start. His encounter with Journey Home staff member, Roy Mainelli, at a job fair at the shelter provided him with that new start he was looking for. As soon as he heard about the Aerospace Employment Placement Program, Jimmie knew that he had found that next step in his life. He enthusiastically began the

enrollment process and soon found himself sitting in a classroom at Goodwin College beginning the next phase of his life.

Jimmie sailed through the education component, soaked in all of the experience during his 6-week internship, and is now gainfully employed at Belcan Corporation. He loves every aspect of this new life. He found hope where some may have not. And that hope guides him as he begins the search for his new home. He has big dreams as he thinks about his new digs. And why wouldn't he? He has come so far. With a full-time job, a great paycheck, benefits, and a 401-K, Jimmie is ready to take on anything.



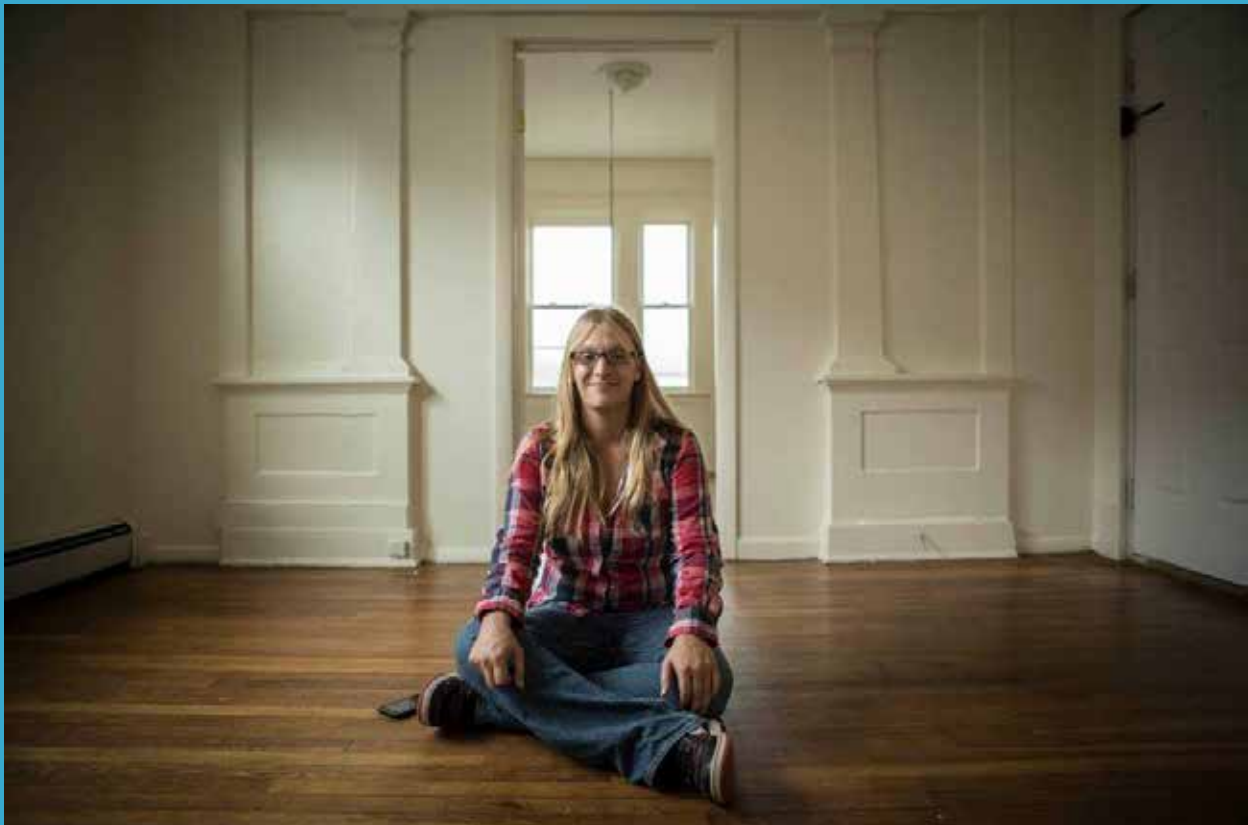
Jillian's Story

In early October, Jillian Horenstein, walked into her spacious two-bedroom apartment in the North End of Hartford and was able to call it home. Jillian was housed through the Moving On Program, a partnership between the City of Hartford and Journey Home, whereby local landlords are awarded project-based Section 8 subsidies that get attached to their units. This allows the units to remain affordable for those with little to no income.

Jillian is one of the nicest people you will ever meet but had been struggling for years since her divorce to find stable housing. Despite her many efforts, she was unable to keep jobs or find work

and would continually lose any housing she had due to non-payment of rent.

She spent time sleeping in the woods of Manchester or couch surfing with friends. By the time she was offered a unit through the Moving On Program, Jillian had just been able to secure a retail job working about 30 hours per week. She was incredibly excited to be working again but was worried about how her homelessness would impact her ability to be a good employee. Journey Home was able to advocate for her and get her into her new home. She told us that this is the first step towards her new life. She wants to go back to school, start going to the gym, and save up money for a car.



Greater Hartford Coordinated Access Network (CAN)



One of the more exciting developments to our Coordinated Access Network during the last year was the hiring of three navigators. These navigators assist clients in obtaining the documents they need to be ready for housing and they also accompany them through the housing process. This is a very important and necessary addition to our work and it allows us to ensure that no one falls through the cracks. For a variety of reasons, it is often challenging to locate those who are experiencing homelessness. This is one of the reasons that the Coordinated Access Network (CAN) has been so instrumental in our work of ending chronic homelessness. The CAN has allowed us to share vital information and has created a pathway to housing. Communication, sharing information, and working together has made all the difference in our fight to end homelessness. Because of our efforts, in less than two years, we have moved over 320 people who are chronically homeless from homelessness to a home with 98% of them remaining housed.

Jesse's Story

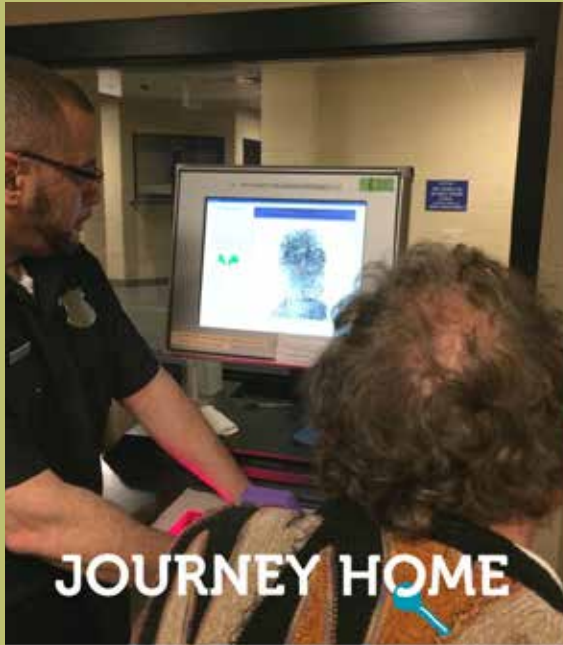
For close to four years there wasn't one day when Jesse could fiddle around in his pocket and find his house key. He couldn't find his key because he didn't have that key. Not only was Jesse homeless, but Jesse was constantly on the move. In and out of shelters, under bridges, on the riverfront, or under highway ducts. Wherever he could find a warm and relatively safe space, that is where he would rest his head at night. No key needed. Just strength, resilience, and determination.

And then one day it happened. Jesse woke up on a warm morning in late May, got dressed, and put his keys in his pocket. He had found his way home. It took a lot of people working together, it took Jesse being committed to the process, and it took streamlined system changes to make this all possible. We are thrilled to know that Jesse is fiddling around in his pocket today and in that pocket he has found a key, a key to his new home. Congratulations, Jesse!



Economic Security

The mission of the AEPP Program is to provide a path out of poverty for the low skilled underserved residents of Greater Hartford through job development and meaningful employment with the following attributes: livable wages, allowing self-sufficiency, skills for the 21st century, and career growth through a collaborative mentoring program. Our program encompasses both pre and post-employment training. The signature element of the program is the commitment by Belcan Corporation of full employment prior to successfully completing the training program for the underserved in Greater Hartford, based on obtaining stackable industry-recognized credentials in manufacturing. We are now able to report that program participants have had earnings totaling over \$700,000. Also, 100% of participants started at a livable wage, 83% passed their required college courses, 100% were offered full benefits at start of employment, and we have witnessed an 88% job retention rate over the life of the program.



Increase Affordable and Supportive Housing Initiatives

In partnership, Journey Home, the City of Hartford and Imagineers have implemented an unprecedented new preference in the City's Housing Choice Voucher Program (formerly known as Section 8). This preference is intended to create more affordable housing for those experiencing chronic homelessness (those with long-term homelessness who also have disabilities). As the entity that maintains the By Name List of individuals experiencing homelessness in our region, and the entity that convenes all of the Coordinated Access Network agencies, Journey Home was well situated to serve as the liaison between homeless service providers and Imagineers in the coordination of this program. Homeless services providers are offering those who have been

in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) for many years (and who were previously chronically homeless), the chance to "move on" and become more independent through this program. This creates openings in the PSH programs that can then be offered to our chronically homeless individuals who benefit from the intensive support services attached to these programs. The City of Hartford has now paved the way using this model and is helping us reach our goal of ending chronic homelessness in our community. It is this sort of innovative thinking that has created great cost-effectiveness and has allowed us to become a city that is leading the nation in creative solutions to homelessness.



Journey Home's First Annual Gala

On a chilly night last January over 300 guests filled The Atrium at CityPlace with laughter, conversation, and most importantly, an earnest desire to support the work and mission of Journey Home. For us, it was a groundbreaking event and one that most said was impossible. We are a young and small organization, but we are certainly mighty.



Amid the great music and incredible food, there was a palpable curiosity present that night. Many of the people gathered at our First Annual Gala were new faces to Journey Home. Old friends were scattered in the crowd, but the new energy in the room carried us throughout the whole evening. People gathered at the Spin-the-Bottle table to try their hand at winning a fine bottle of wine; the Hartford Flavor Company Signature Cocktail station was a huge hit; the Suitcase Drawing was as visually beautiful as it was fun; the NoRA Cupcake table may go down in Journey Home history; and the line at the photo booth was buzzing with activity. Sporting their custom-made “Home is Where the Heart Is” tattoos, guests were mixing and mingling with business partners, corporate executives, partners from our provider agencies, government leaders, and people who had experienced homelessness. It was a true reflection of our work and mission.



Our fabulous auction items, fun activities, and spectacular food helped us raise over \$150,000 to help put an end to chronic homelessness for good.

Other Highlights



Two separate grant awards were made to Journey Home through the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. A grant of \$199,137 was awarded to offer continued support of the Greater Hartford Coordinated Access Network. And a second grant of \$216,105 was awarded to fund the Aerospace Employment Placement Program through the Career Pathways Initiative. We are grateful for the commitment of HFPG to work towards ending homelessness in our community.

In January, Journey Home led the efforts to collect information on those experiencing homelessness in the Greater Hartford area through the Point-in-Time (PIT) count.

The PIT count is a federally mandated census of all those experiencing homelessness on a given night in January. We are grateful to our many teams of outreach leaders, shelters staff and volunteers for making this possible.



Homeless and Housing Advocacy Day for the Greater Hartford Coordinated Access Network (GH-CAN) was held in March. We had 17 legislators and legislative aids come listen to the personal stories, pertinent facts, and important information regarding the legislative priorities put forth by the Opening Doors Campaign from the Partnership for Strong Communities.



In February, a team of front-line staff from Greater Hartford organized the first regional Landlord Breakfast. This breakfast pulled together 20 landlords from across the Greater Hartford region to share information about different housing programs that serve formerly homeless clients in an effort to attract new landlords and increase housing opportunities.



More Highlights

- We hosted our first ever Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast sponsored and catered by Max Downtown. We invited over 60 volunteers to join us so that we could say thank you for everything they have offered to Journey Home over the past year.
- In June, Journey Home hosted the Second Annual Haircuts for Humanity. Partnering with United Artists Salon in West Hartford, we provided 50 free haircuts to people experiencing homelessness. Our deepest thanks and appreciation goes out to so many local businesses who donated services to make this day possible: United Artists Salon, Post Road Stages, Arugula Bistro, Zest 280, Effie's Place, and Blue State Coffee.
- Hosted Dinner in the Park in the summer and the fall. Dinner in the Park is a collaboration between Journey Home and Max Downtown and provides a delicious meal to those in need.
- Participated in the annual Birdies for Charity program through the Travelers Championship and raised over \$16,000
- Partnered with My Sister's Place and other partner agencies to host the 2nd Annual Document Fair. The Document Fair provided an opportunity for people experiencing homelessness to begin the process of obtaining their necessary documents in order to obtain housing.
- This year, Journey Home was the lucky recipient of a portion of every ticket sold at Max Restaurant Group's Annual HOPtoberfest event. We were also able to talk with lots of people interested in our work and mission. This event gave us the opportunity to raise awareness around the issue of homelessness in our region, meet new friends, fundraise for our cause, and have a whole lot of fun.
- #GivingTuesday celebrated its 5th year as a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, #GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season. Our donors doubled their #GivingTuesday donations this year and we are very grateful.



Journey Home Financials 2015-2016



Support & Revenue

\$1,257,029

Expenses

\$1,003,239

Grants (84%)
\$1,057,623

Contributions (4%)
\$45,316

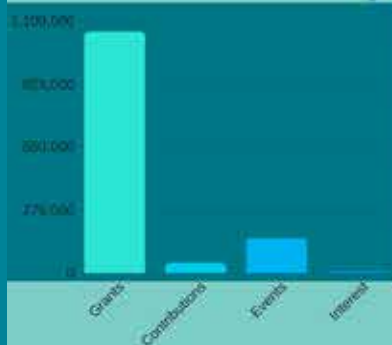
Fundraising Events (12%)
\$152,587

Interest (<1%)
\$1,503

Programs (91%)
\$912,765

Management & General (5%)
\$53,274

Fundraising (4%)
\$37,200



Stay Connected

Visit our website–
www.journeyhomect.org



Like Us on Facebook–
www.facebook.com/JourneyHomeCT/

Follow Us on Twitter–
[@journeyhomect](https://twitter.com/journeyhomect)



Donate–



journeyhomect.org/donate/

Sign up for our quarterly newsletters–
www.journeyhomect.org



Get Involved–
www.journeyhomect.org/get-involved/

Journey Home Board of Directors

Officers

David Doot, Chair
Jody A. Beresin, Vice-Chair
Kevin M. Lacroix, Secretary
Alan Rothstein, Treasurer

Members

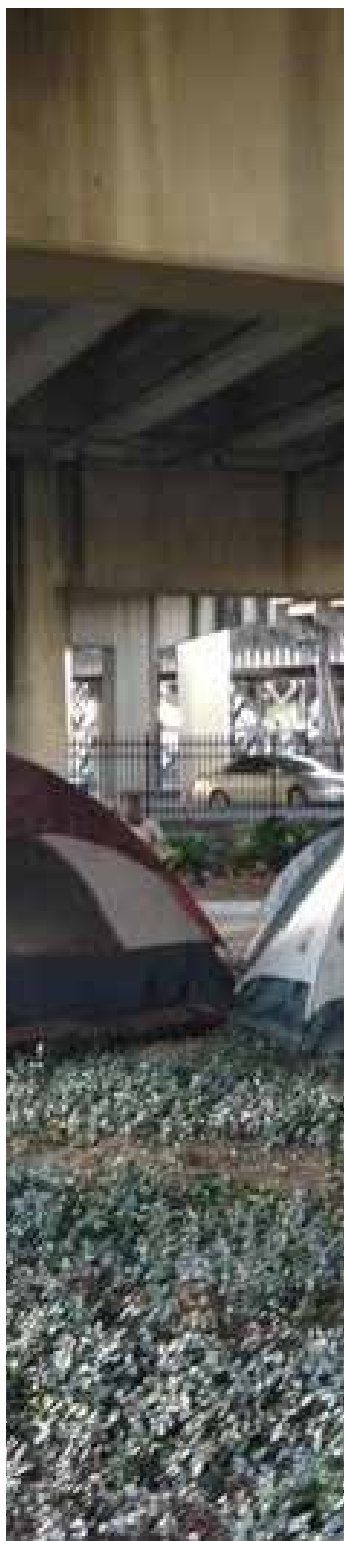
Joseph Black
William Cronin
Betsy Crum
F. Bernie Forand
Tenesha Grant
Donald C. Hunt
Sandra L. Hastings
Lorna Joseph
Mary Ellen Kowalewski
Tina Ortiz
Marilyn Rossetti
William A. Webster II

Emeritus Members

Michael Barton
Sister Judith Carey
William H. Farley
Mark Fox
Craig L. Sylvester

Executive Director

Matt Morgan



255 Main Street, 2nd Floor
Hartford, CT 06106
860.808.0336
journeyhomect.org

JOURNEY HOME



Innovative Solutions to End Homelessness