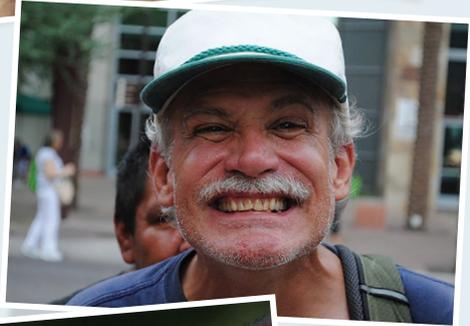
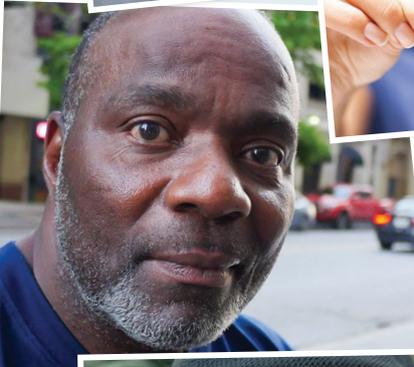


# JOURNEY HOME

2018 ANNUAL  
REPORT





## WELCOME

Dear friends and supporters,

Everyone should have a place to call home. Journey Home is working to make that happen.

Ending homelessness is our mission. Our success depends on everyone working together. And that is happening here, with the amazing and dedicated involvement of our staff, donors, volunteers, friends, local service providers and non-profits, businesses, foundations, and government officials and agencies at local, state and federal levels.

In 2018, Journey Home worked to extend its reach. Coordinating with others and using time-tested strategies, Journey Home is now helping to coordinate services to those experiencing homeless in Central Connecticut (New Britain, Berlin, Bristol, Plainville, and Southington).

Journey Home knows that a home is more than a roof and four walls, and was thrilled to combine forces with another local non-profit—A Hand Up. Now with combined operations, we have been able to serve 30% more clients and have expanded our program from a few days per week to seven days per week.

Continued success in 2019 depends on finding empty apartments that can be made into homes. For that challenge, Journey Home has dedicated a full-time staff person to engage with local landlords. When and where needed, we help clear hurdles to get the homeless into these empty apartments and to make those apartments their homes. Working with them and their landlords, we help to keep these new residents in their homes.

The challenges of those impacted by homelessness are great and growing. Together, though, we are finding help for those experiencing homelessness-- person-by-person, day-by-day. That success is only possible with your dedication and support and for that we are forever grateful. Together, we are making a difference! Thank you!

With gratitude,

Dave Doot

Dave Doot, Board Chair

**JOURNEY HOME**

## ENGAGING AREA LANDLORDS

In 2018, Journey Home was given the opportunity to implement a pilot project in the Greater Hartford area to centralize the landlord engagement and housing search component for those experiencing homelessness. Emerging best practices suggest that working with landlords and property managers is specialized work, not well suited for social workers, who are typically advocating on behalf of their specific clients and not focused on the business model of the rental market.



This past fall, Journey Home hired a Housing Locator with prior experience both in the social services field as well as in realty. Through this program, we are reaching out to landlords and property managers in the region with the hope of partnering with them as Housing Champions to end homelessness by identifying and addressing the concerns that these businesses may have about renting to tenants who may not have robust rental histories and may have other barriers to housing. By focusing in on the mutually beneficial impacts of ensuring everyone has a stable home, we are able to solve challenges such as high vacancy rates, advertising costs, and provide a centralized point of communication for landlords with the provider community. We are developing a centralized database through which landlords and leasing agents will be able to report their vacant units free of charge, and those experiencing homelessness and their service providers can identify a unit that is likely to meet their unique needs. By centralizing this process for the system we will be able to reduce the amount of time it takes for someone in shelter to find housing and quickly fill vacant units in the community, a win-win for all.

## ADDRESSING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Youth Homelessness was a top priority for Journey Home in 2018, and we made great progress towards improving our efforts to serve youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. Journey Home, with assistance from other agencies, led the Youth Count in Greater Hartford in January of last year. This effort helped engage lots of new partners in identifying homeless youth in the community. We also made the decision to dedicate resources to ending youth homelessness by hiring our first Homeless Youth and Family Liaison to help coordinate the efforts around reducing youth homelessness. Through partnerships with numerous organizations serving youth, Journey Home applied for and was awarded federal grants to implement the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project in Greater Hartford and in Greater New Britain. This program now provides youth navigation services to help homeless youth navigate the homeless service system and access the housing, employment, healthcare, and other services they need to succeed. We are partnering with Community Renewal Team and Salvation Army (which is now providing Crisis Housing) as a part of this effort, and we are also collaborating with The Connection, which is now providing Rapid Rehousing for homeless youth. We help convene leaders from these organizations every week to track the progress of every youth who has been identified as experiencing homelessness. As a result, we are working collectively better than ever to help youth get the housing they deserve and to help them leave homelessness behind them for good.



## TWO ORGANIZATIONS BECOME ONE

In November we were part of an exciting moment in our organization's history, our first merger. Journey Home and West Hartford-based nonprofit, A Hand Up, went from two separate entities to one organization. It was the culmination of many months of building relationships, intentionally working together, and lots of planning. We were confident that this merger would allow us to create greater efficiencies and ultimately serve more people in need, and it certainly has.

The Journey Home/A Hand Up move-in initiative, works to support those who are currently transitioning from homelessness to housing by connecting them to donations of household goods and furniture. Families, groups, and communities are matched with a specific household to provide donations and assist with the move-in process. Clients identify their needs, the volunteers gather the needed donated supplies, and they deliver supplies to the household they are supporting in their new home. The people currently being housed are moving from the streets or emergency shelters into apartments of their own. Many of them have very few possessions, no furnishings, and only own what they can carry. The goal of this initiative is to help these households on their path towards turning their units into a true home, while also providing the broader community with a tangible way to get involved with the work of ending homelessness.



### FACTS & FIGURES

- Number of people who found homes in 2018 because of our work: **267**
- We were able to divert **43%** of families and individuals from entering shelter in 2018.
- **276** households received donated furniture and other household goods from us in 2018
- We had **232** people volunteer with us in 2018



# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

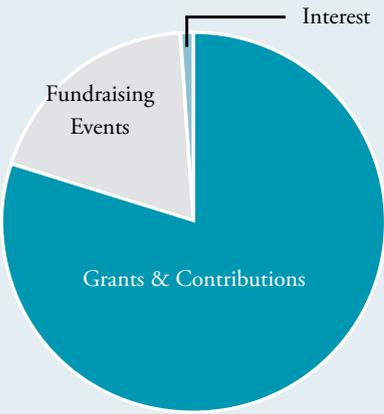
## REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT

Grants & Contributions	\$ 744,294
Fundraising Events	197,113
Interest	3,160
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 944,567

## EXPENSES

Programs	702,108
Management & General	177,850
Fundraising	108,498
Total Expenses	\$ 988,456
Change in net assets	(43,889)

### REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT



### EXPENSES

