

# WHY JOURNEY HOME?

## WHY SHOULD YOU SUPPORT JOURNEY HOME THIS YEAR?

Why should you support Journey Home this year? Instead of us answering that question for you, we asked some of our friends and supporters why they support Journey Home and how Journey Home has made an impact on their lives. We hope that you will take a little time to learn about the why of Journey Home and understand how your financial support can go a long way in making a difference in the lives of those we serve. Please know that it is because of YOU, our friends and supporters, that we have been able to come this far and achieve such remarkable progress in our community. We are all profoundly grateful and humbled that we get to do this important work year after year. Our thanks to all of you for your continued support and your belief in the work that we do.



## WHY DO WE SUPPORT THE JOURNEY HOME GALA EACH YEAR?

NANCY & DON HUNT

Our family believes every individual deserves a safe and stable place to call home, but an unexpected shift in circumstances leading to homelessness can happen to anyone. We are committed to donating to Journey Home because they work with real people, with hopes and dreams, who have fallen on hard times. We feel a moral and societal obligation to help alleviate suffering for those who are un-housed. We believe in the importance of community and that none of our neighbors should be living on the streets. Journey Home's ongoing efforts can only be accomplished with the support of donors and volunteers, so we strongly encourage others to please give generously whenever possible.



*Pictured Nancy & Don Hunt*

## CHALLENGES AHEAD

We continue to be tremendously grateful for the support of so many each year. As with most small nonprofits, we still face new challenges despite the incredible support. Many of our challenges stem from our current economic situation. The increase in the number of working poor (the latest ALICE Report saw an 11% increase from 2019-2021), high inflation makes it very difficult for people to pay their bills, pandemic relief programs have ended, and in Greater Hartford we only have about 15% of the rental assistance and services we need to solve homelessness. The consequence of this is that our region has witnessed a 7% increase in homelessness from 2021 to 2022 and a 10% increase in unsheltered homelessness from 2022 to 2023. Despite these challenges, we are hopeful as we look ahead at this coming year, because we know that there is a growing number of people who believe in our mission, and together, with your support, we will overcome any and all obstacles to achieve our goals.

## THANK YOU!

Your donations make a huge difference in the lives of those experiencing homelessness. Even the smallest amount helps us achieve our goal of making sure that homelessness is brief, rare, and only happens once. Your donation allows us to do this very important work in our community each and every day. We do hope that you will consider supporting Journey Home this year. Thank you for everything you do to make the world a better place!

Follow us on social media!  
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Scan this QR code  
to make a  
donation today!



JOURNEY HOME · PO Box 260727, Hartford, CT 06126  
Phone: 860.808.0336 · Email: [info@journeyhomect.org](mailto:info@journeyhomect.org)

## WHY DOES JOURNEY HOME'S SUPPORT MEANS SO MUCH TO US?

JOVAN

Journey Home helped my family so much! We moved here from Texas and came with nothing but a few clothing items. When we recently moved into our new home, we had the bare minimum and were sleeping on air mattresses. But all that changed when Journey Home transformed our place and made it feel like home. We all have new beds and we are finally all sleeping through the night. We have a table to sit and eat at as a family. We have a comfy couch to sit on and if there are guests, we can finally make them feel welcome. We are so grateful to the Trinity College men's basketball team volunteers for all of their hard work moving us in and to Journey Home for their support. God bless them all always. We are finally HOME.



*Pictured Jovan & Family*

## WHY IS JOURNEY HOME A VALUABLE PARTNER?

REBEKAH LYAS

*Acting Executive Director, South Park Inn*

Journey Home is such a valuable partner in the work of ending homelessness for so many reasons. They ensure that the Coordinated Access Network (CAN) system is operating effectively by making sure the right people and organizations are at the table, assessing current processes and consistently seeking out ways to improve communication, procedures, and advocacy efforts. The team at Journey Home are all so passionate and knowledgeable and they bring that energy and effectiveness to the entire CAN.



*Pictured Rebekah Lyas*

## WHY DOES OUR BUSINESS SUPPORT JOURNEY HOME?

MARISA ROTHSTEIN

Siena Private Wealth proudly supports Journey Home because of its direct, unwavering support for the most vulnerable in our community. Journey Home offers critical resources, guidance and encouragement at a critical, overwhelmingly challenging time in people's lives. We are particularly inspired by Journey Home's work to prevent homelessness, working tirelessly to keep people housed before they enter the cycle of homelessness that can be so hard to break.



*Pictured Marisa Rothstein*



*Picture Mae Maloney & Son Finn*

## WHY AM I A MONTHLY DONOR?

MAE MALONEY

We chose to support Journey Home on a monthly basis because we appreciate the lasting impact monthly donations can make. Every dollar counts for nonprofits, and guaranteed dollars each month can offer relief for organizations that rely on donations. Journey Home's mission is important to us and we are proud to contribute throughout the year and feel part of the Journey Home community.

## WHY DO WE VOLUNTEER AT JOURNEY HOME?

TODD POLLEY & OBI NWAFOR

Todd: My favorite thing about volunteering at Journey Home is experiencing the genuine gratitude we receive from our clients when we turn their apartment into a home. So many of our clients have had to overcome so much adversity. I never expected to see the level of resilience our clients have to make a better life for themselves.

Obi: I now know that an hour of my time makes a world of difference to someone who might feel unseen by society. My favorite Journey Home volunteer story was when we built a bunk bed in a client's house for kids who had been sleeping on leaky air mattresses. The father of the boys was so appreciative and cried while thanking us. When we were done, we saw the kids run into the room and jump on their beds and begin playing. I grew up sharing a bunk with my little brother, so I remember that feeling of adventure.



*Pictured Todd Polley (L) & Obi Nwafor (R)*

## WHY AM I ON THE BOARD AT JOURNEY HOME?

SANDRA BRADFORD-JENNINGS

When I learned that Journey Home was looking for board members, my eyes lit up! I was already familiar with the critically important work Journey Home does because they partner with the criminal justice organization where I work.

Housing insecurity is the biggest issue facing people coming home from prison, and being on the Board of Directors for Journey Home allows me to learn so much more about this issue. It's been eye-opening. I am proud to volunteer my time to help Journey Home make life better for people who are homeless or housing insecure.



*Pictured Sandra Bradford-Jennings*