



Homelessness

On March 15th, the Social Action Committee had a speaker, Kate Kelly from the Reaching Home Campaign who talked about supportive housing. The Reaching Home Campaign is the campaign to end long-term homelessness in Connecticut in ten years through the creation of 10,000 new units of supportive housing. The Campaign is staffed out of the office of the Partnership for Strong Communities. The meeting was very enlightening and the committee is very grateful to Catherine Curran for arranging this speaker. Homelessness is a huge issue nationwide that has become a major focal point of Archbishop Mansell's initiatives. He, along with Susan Rotner, President, Bank of America, was asked by Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez to co-chair Hartford's Commission on a Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness. In Connecticut, roughly 33,000 people, including 13,000 children, are homeless at some time each year. As many as 2,800 are among the long-term homeless and they have no place to call home for years on end. Supportive housing is an answer to this problem, as it provides affordable housing with available services to assist with mental health issues, substance abuse, employment, education, and others. It is an excellent way to empower the homeless and help them to help themselves. Over the next several weeks, more information will be published in the bulletin about this issue. For further information, you can check out the Partnership for Strong Communities website at: <http://www.ctpartnershiphousing.com>

Supportive Housing

Supportive housing is an excellent way to end long-term homelessness through public and private resources. The cost to permanently house and support people is not much more than the cost in caring for the homeless. It has actually been proven that formerly homeless tenants of Connecticut supportive housing decreased their use of Medicaid-reimbursed inpatient medical care by 71% after moving into supportive housing apartments. Additionally, a study has found that **two thirds** of tenants in supportive housing were employed or in education and training programs. The cost of supportive housing in Connecticut is about \$36/day per person. This cost is significantly cheaper than \$660/day for inpatient psychiatric care, \$232/day for a nursing home, \$100/day for a residential substance abuse program, or \$83/day for incarceration. Supportive housing works and we should all support it. For more information on how you can help the Reaching Home Campaign spread the message that Supportive Housing Works!, contact Kate Kelly, Reaching Home Campaign Coordinator, The Lyceum, 227 Lawrence St., Hartford, 06106. Phone: 244-0066, e-mail: kate@ctpartnershiphousing.com, website: <http://www.ctpartnershiphousing.com>

Homelessness and Supportive Housing

Here is a personal example of how supportive housing works: Mr. Smith, a 60 year old man, a native of New Haven, dropped out of school in the ninth grade and was living on the streets. He suffered from alcoholism and was homeless for years. He completed a two-year substance abuse treatment program and became one of the first tenants of a New Haven supportive housing apartment building. Here, he learned how to cook, manage his finances, and keep a

clean, comfortable apartment. He has been alcohol-free for 7 years, is active in the community, volunteers at the apartment's front desk, and is a member of the residence's tenant board. He states, "I didn't know what life was. I had no clothes, no furniture, no house, nothing. I was drunk, homeless. You name it, I did it," says Mr. Smith, referring to his years on the street. "Now my life is quiet and good. I love it here. I love the freedom I have now. This is my home until I die." Supportive housing works, so please support it. For more information on how you can help spread the Reaching Home Campaign spread the message that Supportive Housing Works!, contact Kate Kelly, Reaching Home Campaign Coordinator, The Lyceum, 227 Lawrence St., Hartford, 06106. Phone: 244-0066, e-mail: kate@ctpartnershiphousing.com, website: <http://www.ctpartnershiphousing.com>

Supportive Housing in Connecticut

In Connecticut, about 2,200 supportive housing units have been created, but many more are needed. The Governor's Interagency Council on Supportive Housing and Homelessness has recommended the creation of 1,000 more units of supportive housing over the next four years. These 1,000 additional units would help to end long-term homelessness and make it easier to achieve independence, improve health, and acquire jobs for: families with multiple barriers to stable housing and employment; adults recovering from mental illness or chemical dependency who are repeatedly or persistently homeless; and young adults, aged 18-23, who are homeless or who are leaving the youth system and are at risk of homelessness. Supportive housing helps to rebuild the lives of thousands of people and provides a cheaper, more effective option for people who require emergency and crisis intervention services on a regular basis. How can you help?: sign yourself on as a supporter of the Reaching Home Campaign by contacting Kate Kelly, Reaching Home Campaign Coordinator, The Lyceum, 227 Lawrence St., Hartford, 06106. Phone: 244-0066, e-mail: kate@ctpartnershiphousing.com, or website: <http://www.ctpartnershiphousing.com>

Solving the Chronic Homeless Problem

Archbishop Mansell, along with Susan Rottner, President, Bank of America, was asked by Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez to co-chair Hartford's Commission on a Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness Our help is needed in this effort. Supportive housing has been proven to work and be very effective in not only providing homes for the homeless, but also to help the formerly homeless get back to work and school, and to significantly decrease the burdens and costs of emergency room and psychiatric care, substance abuse treatment, jails, etc. Supportive housing helps to rebuild lives for those who once had few or no prospects. Supportive housing properties are well managed and well maintained, and property values have increased significantly in these areas. It is a good investment, as it brings back \$3.43 in new economic activity for each \$1 invested. Please try to learn more about supportive housing and sign on as a supporter of it. For more information, contact Kate Kelly, Reaching Home Campaign Coordinator, and Partnership for Strong Communities, The Lyceum, 227 Lawrence St., Hartford, 06106. Phone: 244-0066, e-mail: kate@ctpartnershiphousing.com, or website: <http://www.ctpartnershiphousing.com>

from the Reaching Home Campaign