



**“A caring  
community helps  
its neighbors.”**

— Lynn Abramson  
Program Director,  
ASAP After School  
Academic Program



**HOMES**  
*with*  
**HOPE**

**2019-2020**  
Executive Summary

# A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT HELEN MCALINDEN



Let me begin by extending my well wishes to you during these challenging times. As the new President and CEO of Homes with Hope I am honored to carry on the work of my predecessors, Jeff Wieser and Pete Powell. So much has happened since I began this job in January but one thing that has not changed is the dedication

of Homes with Hope to our mission. As we strongly believe in the value of partnership, Homes with Hope continues to work collaboratively to ensure that homelessness becomes rare, brief and non-recurring in Fairfield County even during these unprecedented times.

As I reflect back over this past year I realize what makes Homes with Hope unique is you! I have seen firsthand how our generous community rallied around our organization to ensure that the population we serve was well taken care of and supported. The genuine concern and commitment from so many of you has been an inspiration to all and we thank you!

I am so impressed by our dedicated staff who continued to serve and support the men, women, youth and children in our programs while facing the ever changing challenges of this pandemic. In 2019 Homes with Hope provided services to 1,234 individuals in Fairfield County from our Community Kitchen, Emergency Shelters, Food Pantry, Supportive Housing, Rapid Rehousing, Diversion Programs and After School Programs.

For the past 37 years this affluent community has chosen to embrace those individuals and families who have experienced the trauma of homelessness. I believe if small towns across the country followed your lead there would be a remarkable impact on this national crisis. I also feel blessed that First Selectman Jim Marpe and so many of Westport's leaders provide their unwavering support to ensure the town takes care of those who are less fortunate. Like my predecessors, Jeff and Pete, I remain committed to the belief that homelessness is best treated on a small, local level where the community can join together to support and serve the homeless gathered there.

Stay safe and healthy and I hope to meet you soon,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Helen McAlinden". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Helen McAlinden  
*President and CEO*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Officers:** John Walsh, *Chair*, Jennifer Ferrante, *Vice Chair*, Bruce Hennemuth, *Treasurer*, Rebecca Martin, *Secretary*

**Directors:** Brian Baxendale, Dale Fredston, Bruce Gaylord, Allyson Gottlieb, Jeffrey Gurren, Natasha Lipcan, Naeema Livingston, Elizabeth Massoud, Rachel Meisel, Fernando Murillo, Ian O'Malley, Carol Randel, Lauren Schiller, Lauren Soloff, Chan Wheeler, Ralph Yearwood, Missy Zahler

# WHAT WE'RE DOING IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Homes with Hope has followed the recommendations of local and state officials for best practices at our facilities, in accordance with CDC guidelines for health and safety. With the reopening of our emergency shelters, we remain intently focused on the unpredictable nature of this pandemic. Your generous financial and community support is more critical now than ever as we continue to navigate the challenges of COVID-19 which will further affect the most vulnerable members of our community.

Our **Community Kitchen Volunteer Program** is once again accepting prepared meals, however, the Gillespie Center & Hoskins Place building remains closed to the public.

**Meals to go** are available to community members in need of food.

Our **Food Pantry** continues to distribute bags of non-perishable groceries Mon/Tues/Thurs/Friday, 1pm - 4pm.

**Food Pantry donations** of non-perishable items are being accepted daily 10am - 4pm.

For COVID-19 guidelines and more details please visit: [hwhct.org](http://hwhct.org)

## THANK YOU FROM A SUPPORTIVE HOUSING CLIENT

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*Hi Paris,*

*I hope you are well and safe. I'm just wanting to say how much I appreciate the things Jo Ann and Lynn do. I know they are doing their jobs. Both do their jobs with a smile on their face and love in their heart. Them doing their job so effectively helps my family function much more smoothly. The present global situation makes me even more thankful of their efforts. I don't know if they consider themselves front line workers but to me they are... both putting themselves in possible harm's way for the good of their job daily.*

*Most appreciatively,*

*Liz*

# HOMES WITH HOPE'S LIFE SAVING PROGRAMS



## Emergency Shelter

We provide safe emergency shelter and essential services to men and women who are homeless.



## Permanent Supportive Housing

We operate 47 units of Supportive Housing for individuals and families who have experienced chronic homelessness. Case managers assist our residents with the tools they need to maintain housing stability and independent living.



## Food Programs

Our Community Kitchen and Food Pantry are available to all of our neighbors in need



## Youth and Young Adult Programs

Our programs provide consistent structure, positive role models, academic support, and enrichment/community service activities to help young people develop the skills needed to be successful at school and in their personal lives.



## Mentoring Initiative

Through weekly one-on-one meetings, trained volunteer mentors offer compassion, guidance and friendship, fostering confidence and self-reliance.

# GETTING BACK ON MY FEET WITH THE HELP OF HOMES WITH HOPE

"I was provided a level of help and caring during my stay at the shelter that has made all the difference in my life. Ryan found me subsidized housing that was available because I had failed out of Rapid Rehousing, turning a lemon into lemonade. The Homes with Hope subsidized housing provides the support I need while I'm working to regain my coping skills. I continue weekly therapy with Suzanne and have started weekly group therapy at Norwalk Hospital. I have a Homes with Hope case manager who calls me regularly to ensure I haven't fallen into depression and remain safe and healthy. Often, I feel I have somehow squandered the God-given talents I was fortunate to have.



With the help of Homes with Hope, I'm hopeful that there's a second act where I appreciate the many blessings I've received and put them to the highest and best use. "

Homes with Hope, Inc. has a 4-star rating, the highest possible.



This rating recognizes our adherence to sector best practices and mission execution in a financially efficient way. Attaining a 4-star rating verifies that Homes with Hope, Inc. exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in our area of work.

## 2019 EXPENDITURES



- **Program** 82%
- **Administrative** 7%
- **Fundraising** 11%

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR INSPIRING PERFORMANCE AT OUR VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER



## Stand Up AT HOME for Homes with Hope JUNE 20, 2020

*"City of Stars* is a song about being embraced by a town that you love and as you all probably know Westport is a town that I love. And, Homes with Hope is the beacon in the town of Westport that not only provides food and shelter to the homeless but it provides that embrace to all the people of the town."

– JUSTIN PAUL

During these extraordinary times it was very meaningful for us to carry on the tradition of our time-honored fundraiser, Stand Up for Homes with Hope. Creating a virtual fundraiser was a challenging adventure that turned out to be a memorable evening of clients sharing their personal journeys and comedians and special guests entertaining our virtual audience. Thanks to the energized support of our viewers and sponsors we raised much needed funds to continue the important work we accomplish every day.

**DONATE**  
online @

[hwhct.org/donate](https://hwhct.org/donate)



scan here

Homes with Hope, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization predominately funded by the Westport community and neighboring towns. Tax ID# 22-253-4326

# A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO **JEFF WIESER**

After nearly 10 years as President and CEO of Homes with Hope, Jeff Wieser retired in December 2019 leaving a memorable imprint on our wonderful organization. Jeff was involved with HwH for 30 years, first on the Board and then assuming the role of President and CEO. Jeff shared this reflection upon his retirement, "This has been the most satisfying professional role of my life. It is easy to be proud of the Homes with Hope organization and it is easier to be proud of the community that supports HwH so spiritually and generously."



Helen McAlinden joined Homes with Hope as President and CEO on January 6, 2020. She is a powerful role model, creative leader and collaborative partner advocating for the homeless within Fairfield County. Helen shared these thoughts, "During Jeff's tenure Homes with Hope was further established as a leader in regional not-for-profit services and as a national role model demonstrating how a suburban town can be effective in responding to homelessness. I had the pleasure of working alongside Jeff at Opening Doors Fairfield County for almost a decade. We all miss his enthusiasm and dedication, but we know he is somewhere behind the scenes advocating and cheering us on."

John Walsh, Chair of the Board of Directors, shared this sentiment with the audience at Stand Up 2019.

"What I think sets Jeff apart is the personal touch that he brings to the job; the respect and the dignity that he shows to all and the civility that he brings to every conversation. His service has been a true gift to our community."

Jeff, from all of us at Homes with Hope, we wish you well in the next chapter of your journey.

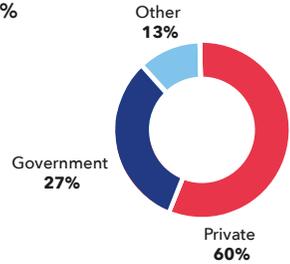
## Financials

Revenues	2017	2018	2019	
Private	2,051,713	2,045,000	2,305,436	60%
Government	965,356	940,503	1,051,370	27%
Other	470,068	360,307	494,799	13%
Total Revenue	3,487,137	3,345,810	3,851,605	

2017 3,487,137

2018 3,345,810

2019 3,851,605



Total private contributions from fundraising and in-kind contributions **increased by 12.75% in 2019** in support of our positive impact on homelessness, diversion and supportive housing.

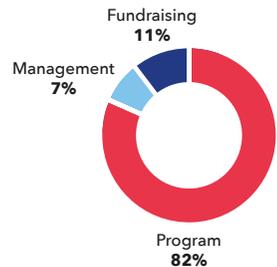
**Private donations comprise over 60% of our annual revenues.**

Expenses	2017	2018	2019	
Program	3,128,178	3,087,294	3,162,138	82%
Management	294,293	324,762	273,733	7%
Fundraising	364,979	350,749	440,000	11%
Total Expenses	3,787,450	3,762,805	3,875,871	

2017 3,787,450

2018 3,762,805

2019 3,875,871



Homes with Hope has increased operating efficiency enabling more funding each year to directly support our programs.

Through technology enhancements and process improvements, **over 82% of all funding is spent directly on services for our clients.**

Assets	Current Assets	Net Assets
Beginning	654,260	2,226,014
Ending	685,277	2,201,748

Year end 2019 showed an increase in total current assets of 4% reflecting the positive trend in individual and private donations.

Our new participation with the Small Cities Youth and Adult Diversion Programs added favorably to government grant funding.

## Support our Work . .

Donate online at [hwhct.org/donate/](http://hwhct.org/donate/)

**One-time or Recurring Gift | Securities | Corporate Matching | Planned Giving**

**Contact Helen McAlinden at [hmcalden@hwhct.org](mailto:hmcalden@hwhct.org) to learn more about Homes with Hope.**

# BY THE NUMBERS

This past year has brought unprecedented challenges for everyone, including Homes with Hope. We had to cancel many of our annual fundraising events in addition to moving some of our clients to a hotel to protect them against COVID-19.

During this difficult time, we have been thankful to receive unprecedented support from the Town of Westport, public and community partners, donors and funders. This support has enabled us to pivot and serve a larger number of clients while maintaining CDC guidelines and instituting new protocols keeping everyone safe.

Although we have maintained financial support, our near and long-term financial planning faces challenges and uncertainties in the upcoming year as the economic downturn continues with a critically high unemployment level and the rise of the Covid-19 positivity rate in our communities. Today, we need your support now more than ever to continue to serve safely the most vulnerable members of our community.

Your tax deductible donation supports Homes with Hope's mission dedicated to ending homelessness in Fairfield County. Homes with Hope maintains an IRS 501(c)(3) designation, EIN 22-2534326, and all contributions are tax-deductible.

Homes with Hope's **4-Star exceptional Charity Navigator** rating is based on financial health, accountability and transparency. Attaining this rating verifies that Homes with Hope, Inc. exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in our area of work.

