

Our History

In 1939, visionary social worker Pauline Lang, pictured below, and other community volunteers facilitated a series of public meetings where West Haven residents could discuss issues facing their community. At these meetings, it became clear that citizens desired a community center that would enhance the quality of life for all West Haven residents, and would serve as a hub of positive activities for children.



To make this dream a reality, a capital campaign was undertaken, resulting in the purchase of a property at 227 Elm Street. In August 1941, incorporation papers were signed establishing the West Haven Community House Association.

More than seven decades later, West Haven still benefits from the foresight of these civic leaders of yesteryear. Over the past 70+ years, thousands upon thousands of West Haven residents have experienced the warm embrace of the Community House. And, as West Haven and the world have changed, so has the Community House. Teen dances, Saturday cooking classes, after-school activity programs and children's day camps were typical offerings in the 40s, 50, 60s and 70s.

Today, we are a private, IRS 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization facilitating healthy, productive, independent and meaningful lives for children, adolescents and families, in addition to adults with developmental disabilities.



Since 1941, thousands of West Haven children, families and adult clients have received valuable assistance and necessary services from the West Haven Community House.

Your support helps us provide these services and we thank all of our civic-minded, generous donors who have given in support of our mission. For more information about how to donate, our special events or our Endowment Fund, call the Development Office at: **(203) 934-5221, ext. 133**



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Let's Build A Legacy Together



ENDOWMENT

West Haven Community House
Serving the community since 1941



Our Mission

The West Haven Community House exists to facilitate satisfying, healthy, productive, independent and meaningful lives for the people of West Haven.

The mission of West Haven Community's endowment is to support the people, programs, and activities of the Community House in perpetuity.



Our Vision

Our vision is that the Community House will be valued for our professional services, leadership and positive impact in our community and that our services will encourage individual development and healthy group relationships, promote inclusion, and advocate for positive social change in West Haven.

Our Programs

As the cornerstone social service agency in the city, the West Haven Community House pro-actively engages city government, the educational system, service providers, civic organizations and the religious communities to help meet the needs of our residents. Current programs and services include:

Head Start

School readiness pre-school program for low-income children.

School Age Child Care

Before and after school care for elementary school children & summer program.

Positive Youth Development - Kids in the Neighborhood

After-school enrichment program for elementary school children.

Community Connections

Community integration day activities program and skills training for adults with developmental disabilities.

Residential Services

For adults with developmental disabilities.

In addition to these programs and services, the Community House is an active partner in the West Haven Family Resource Center, the West Haven School Readiness Council, the West Haven Early Childhood Committee, and the West Haven Inter-agency Network for Children, among others.

Giving Options

ENDOWMENT

When you give to the West Haven Community House Endowment Fund or make a commitment with a planned giving gift, you are leaving a legacy that will strengthen our community, improve lives and make a lasting impact. Ways to give include:

- **Bequests of Estates**
- **Life Insurance Beneficiary**
- **Real Estate and Property**
- **Stocks & Other Securities**
- **Trusts & Annuities**



As of Sept. 31, 2013, the WHCH Endowment Fund was valued at \$516,000. Help us reach our goal of having \$1 million in total assets in the Endowment Fund by June 30, 2016 -- in commemoration of the agency's 75th Year since its founding in 1941.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on making a Planned Giving or Endowment gift to the West Haven Community House, call the Development Office at 203-934-5221, ext. 131.