

Annual Message from Our Board President



At our Annual Meeting in June 2012, I discussed the concept of “Forever Friends” in the context of a community coming together for a common good – and the sense that “we are all in this together.”

I described that in a metaphorical sense, we at the West Haven Community House are a “lifeboat” to many people in our community, helping many West Haven residents navigate through the sometimes rough waters of life. Among those that

we help are the very young in our Head Start pre-school program, students in our School Age Child Care programs, and adults with developmental disabilities including elderly adults who are served in our Day and Residential programs.

I was also pleased to report that the Community House itself had yet again weathered the many storms and challenges that we as an agency faced in the 2011-2012 fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2012. The agency completed its fiscal year with a balanced budget and for that we thank you, our generous donors, who provide us with the means that help ensure our programs remain financially stable, no matter how many economic storms may be lurking.

How does your help come to us? Some of you wrote us a check during the holidays, or responded to a call for help with an in-kind donation. Others attended an event and perhaps purchased a raffle item. Each donor is vital to our ongoing success and financial viability. Therefore, on behalf of the board, our management team and staff, “I thank you” for your generosity through the years, and I add, “We still need you!”

I am also proud to share some of our achievements and milestones of the 2011-12 fiscal year:

“What is once well done is done forever.”

~ Henry David Thoreau

- We successfully consolidated the management of the Kids in the Neighborhood and School Age Child care programs, providing unified management and oversight structure.
- We continued to address safety and security issues at all our sites.
- We maintained and improved our physical plant, including re-roofing our residential home at 228 Elm St., re-siding our Savin Ave. home, as well as completing numerous other smaller projects throughout the fiscal year.
- The Head Start program just completed its first year with a new director, the first in nearly 30 years, and successfully completed a self-assessment of its program and staff.
- We continued to foster our partnerships with the city of West Haven, the West Haven Board of Education, the city’s Health Department, the United Way of Greater New Haven, and the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, among many, many others.
- Our “A Night at the Races” special event in April 2012 was our largest one ever, both in terms of attendees but also “net” proceeds.
- Our new program for adults with developmental disabilities, “SMILE,” has also become an important program feature.

These, and other continuing improvements are providing positive momentum as we entered our 72nd year in July.

Therefore, I salute all of you who have partnered with us.

You are our “Friends Forever,” because truly we are all working together for the good of all.

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West Haven Community House

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