

# Community House nets record amount at its annual 'A Night at the Races' event

WEST HAVEN (April 22, 2014) – About 300 people attended the West Haven Community House's annual fundraising event, *A Night at the Races*, which was held on Friday, April 11, 2014, at the Italian-American Club in West Haven. The event netted the agency nearly \$23,000 after expenses, a new "net" record for the event, said Executive Director Patty Stevens.

"A Night at the Races" has become a popular annual event for area residents, community leaders and business owners who come together for an entertaining evening of videotaped horse races, raffles and prizes, all while supporting the vital work done by the Community House in West Haven.

Many thanks to the event's major GOLD level sponsors, including: University of New Haven, Chip's Restaurant, and First Niagara Bank. In addition, the agency would like to thank Andrade Motors, NewAlliance Foundation, The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, Elm Diner, DeGennaro Auto & Truck Repair, Performance Food Service, Luanci Construction, Maintenance One, West Haven Voice, Premier Printing and Rose & Kiernan for their sponsorship support.

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The "A Night at the Races" event is facilitated by the staff of the IA Club, also known as Westwoods Banquet Hall on Chase Lane. Mickey Livi is the IA Club scheduling representative and main club contact. "The Community House is fortunate to have a great banquet facility and its



**Board of Directors 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and event Emcee Bill Heffernan III at the microphone with West Haven Mayor Ed O'Brien.**



**Many thanks to Board member Annette Knobloch, pictured above, for helping organize our raffle prizes and display.**

helpful and friendly staff available to us to host this event,” said Stevens. “Mickey and everyone at the Club really take care of us.” As it happened, the Livi family was the lucky winner of the 50/50 raffle.

The evening featured six videotaped horse races shown on three big screens. Attendees are issued play money and are allowed to “bet” on the pre-recorded horse races, with “odds” being set at the beginning of each race based on actual play money wagered. At the end of the evening, the two tables with the most play money win prizes.



**Our victorious Fancy Hat Winner  
– Women’s Division.**

The event also featured three tables of raffle prizes, including Yankee and Red Sox tickets, as well as a basketball signed by the University of Connecticut’s 2013-14 women’s basketball team, which three days earlier had won its 9<sup>th</sup> national NCAA championship.

Attendees also vied in a men’s and women’s “Fancy Hat Contest” competition for prizes.

This year’s net result bested by nearly \$4,000 the \$19,000 net raised in 2013, with all proceeds benefitting the programs and services offered by the West Haven Community House, including its Head Start pre-school

program, its before and after school Child Care and Positive Youth Development / Kids in the Neighborhood programs, as well as residential and day services for adults with developmental disabilities.

This year’s event was again emceed by Community House Board 2nd Vice President Bill Heffernan, III, who was aided by Events Committee members including Chairperson Katie Heffernan, and Board of Directors members Gene Sullivan, Annette Knobloch, Ken Prisco, Barbara Doyle, Grace Hendricks, Mark Healey, Cheryl Milano and Gayle Tagliatela. Local businesswoman Teddi McKenna is also a member of the Events Committee.



**Attendees line up for their favorite horse tickets.**

“We are extremely grateful to the many people who support the work of the Community House through our special events like the A Night at the Races,” added Stacie Phan, the board president.