First Annual End of Summer Bash

Members of Community Connections’ DSO program held their First Annual End of Summer Beach Bash at Anthony’s Ocean View restaurant in East Haven. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful weather, the delicious food and celebrating with their friends. The party took place outside at the restaurant’s Paradise Garden complete with garden-style waterfalls, palm trees and cabana style seating.

Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to show off their etiquette skills at the fully catered event with some fun in the sun, dancing, beach games, and posing for photos around the garden and on the beach.

Our Condolences

Kim Swanson passed away peacefully at CT Hospice, with her family by her side, on July 12, 2018. Kim was a part of our family for 13 years where she enjoyed her activities and her friends. Kim loved her family and friends and was always ready for a party, so she could dance the night away.

All of us at Community Connections wishes to express our deepest condolences to the Swanson family. She will be greatly missed.
The Community House expanded its 7th annual Family Fun Walk fundraiser to include a music festival in collaboration with The Rock House School of Music. Rock & Stroll, Fun Walk & Music Festival took place on Saturday, September 22nd at the Savin Rock boardwalk, and featured 9 bands and more than 250 walkers, the largest turnout yet.

The Walking Warriors team took the first place title, once again, with 88 walkers consisting of staff, clients and families who raised nearly $6,000.

Over the last 7 years, the Walking Warriors team has raised close to $30,000 for the Community House. It was a beautiful end-of-summer day with plenty of sunshine and a lot of fun!

Ghosts and Goblins Everywhere - Halloween Magic In The Air

The annual Halloween party was a big hit with plenty of food, candy and, of course, dancing!
Alexion’s Employees Conduct Global Day of Service

At the end of September, approximately 15 employees from Alexion, a local pharmaceutical company, volunteered for the day as part of Alexion’s Global Day of Service. They provided a photo booth, garden and art workshop with the individuals in our day program.

They assembled garden kits for each person to take home and had fun singing with Karaoke, allowing everyone to get to know each other in a fun way.

Karaoke Jam Session

The Residential crew wrapped up the summer in style with a Karaoke Jam on September 18th. Everyone had a blast belting out their favorite tunes, taking requests and teaming up to sing duets. Those who chose not to sing (or were too shy to try) enjoyed dancing to the music and socialized with their friends. The event wrapped up with everyone’s favorite dessert, cupcakes that came from a beautiful pull-apart cake!

Out and About in The Community

Whether it’s a trip to a farm, taking in a baseball game, trying their luck at a casino or attending a movie; all activities are opportunities that promote positive social interaction, community inclusion and skill building to become more independent, all while having a lot of fun!

Pictured above: With a sponsorship from The Rideshare Company, several folks from our Residential program took in a Yard Goats baseball game with Chew Chew and Chompers in Hartford.

Pictured left: A visit to B&B Flower Farm and Ice Cream Shop in West Haven where Kim gets a hug from owner, Robert Newkirk, and Eric checks out the goats before they all enjoyed some ice cream.

Pictured right: Some ladies from our Residential program spent the weekend at Foxwoods for a much needed vacation. They had an amazing time touring around the casinos, trying their luck at some slots, sampling the fine dining and shopping for souvenirs at the boutiques.
The Avenues Program Expands

The Avenues program welcomes some new and exciting changes. In addition to hiring a new Program Manager, Shenikah Grandison, there are 5 new individuals enrolled in the program. Everyone has been having fun getting to know each other, and are looking forward to exploring new opportunities and meeting goals that each person has set out for themselves. We welcome everyone aboard and are looking forward to this exciting year!

The garden project has come to an end until Spring arrives, but in the meantime, the mini eggplants, cherry tomatoes and sunflowers were ripe for the picking. In the kitchen, the Avenues participants learned about healthy eating and cooking using what they grew in their garden to make some delicious Eggplant Parmesan and Caprese Tomato Salad.

Over the summer months, the group visited many local attractions including the West Haven Animal Shelter, The WWI Aviator Exhibit at New Haven Museum, The Shore Line Trolley Museum, and Lyman Orchard.

Helping the community is important to the individuals in the Avenues program. They raised funds and awareness at Walmart and baked tasty brownies for the bakesale at the Rock & Stroll Fun Walk and Music Festival in September. From practicing computer skills to learning how to advocate for themselves in the community, our Avenues participants are well on their way to a more independent, brighter future.

A Generous Donation From The West Haven Elk’s Club

The Community House received a $2,100 donation from the West Haven Elk’s Club. The funds were raised at an event the club holds each year honoring a bartender from one of the local restaurants in West Haven. The honoree is named Bartender of the Year and they get to choose which charity receives the proceeds. This year’s honoree was Margie Hackett from Kelly’s on Campbell. Margie chose to have the money donated to Community Connections in honor of her nephew Robert, who attends our Avenues program. Thank you Elk’s Club members and Margie for your support!

Justen Graduated

In June, Justen received his High School diploma from West Haven High School and has transferred out of the Avenues program. The next step in Justen’s journey was getting accepted into, and starting the Community Connections Day program this past summer.