State Budget Crisis Continues
Not having a state budget for more than 4 months has impacted our ability to maintain the same level of services. Even with the passing of the budget looming, we continue to be unsure of cuts in funding.

Please continue to call our legislators and let them know that these cuts are unacceptable. Visit www.cga.ct.gov for a list of legislators. Thank you for your support and advocacy.

Year Two for The Avenues
We are in our second year of The Avenues Program, and it continues to grow. We recently welcomed a few new clients, Robert, Brittany and Justen.

They’ve jumped right into the many program activities including gardening, shopping, cooking, volunteering, travel training and learning about the various resources that are available in the community. They have also participated in after hour activities and are making new friends along the way. We look forward to another exciting year.

A Visit with the Mayor
Recently a group of clients and staff members met up with West Haven’s Mayor, Ed O’Brien for a stroll around town and a tour of our facility to see our program in action.

CDR’s Wheel-A-Thon
Staff and clients teamed up for Center for Disability Rights’ (CDR) annual Wheel-A-Thon fundraiser that raised $15K for scholarships.

We collaborate with CDR in a variety of ways including supporting each other’s fundraising efforts and advocacy measures.

Avenues Program Manager, Skyla, and Brittany enjoyed making caramel apples.

Robert is improving his tie dye skills.
The Walking Warriors Takes First Place ... Again!

The Walking Warrior’s Fun Walk team, once again, took first place in number of participants and amount raised with 70 walkers raising more than $6,000. Thank you all for helping to make this year’s walk the best!

Team members held numerous fundraising activities that helped them exceed their goal of $4,000. They actually collected $6,000 in donations for the Family Fun Walk. Whether it was Tie Dying, collecting items for Savers, or participating in a Zumba classes or movie night; everyone had a great time and are proud of their hard work.

Team members and their families collected gently used household items and clothing (2,000 pounds worth) and donated them to Savers as part of a fundraising efforts for the Walking Warriors Family Fun Walk team. They raised nearly $300 in the collection.

Robert, Joyce and Charlene had so much fun tie-dying t-shirts as part of a fundraiser for the Walking Warrior’s Family Fun Walk team.

Everybody loves to dance. Zumba instructor, Carol James, from the Community House’s Children & Youth Services program holds monthly/weekly Zumba classes. In addition to improving balance, Zumba’s high energy moves keep clients in tip-top shape.
"Summertime and the Livin’ is Easy." – *Porgy and Bess*

In August, clients donned their special glasses to witness a Solar Eclipse. Theresa was amazed at what she saw.

Individuals from the day and residential program took in a New York Yankees game.

Russell and Dennis spent an afternoon learning about healthy competition shooting hoops, while John perfects his Bocce game.

Dennis, Russell, Carlos and Bryan practice their social skills while mingling with the local fisherman.

**R.I.P. Robyn**

Robyn Green joined our Avenues Program in June 2017. She was always smiling, laughing and engaging with her peers. Her favorite activities were gardening and cooking. Sadly, Robyn passed away unexpectedly on September 8, 2017. She will truly be missed and her memory will live forever in our hearts.

**Building Social Interactions**

Playing games builds positive social interactions in a new and fun way. Pictured left to right are Larry, Coach Rob, Mike, Coach Audrey, Joe and Charlene.

**Garden Club Update**

Gardening season has sadly come to an end; however the Gardening Club will be back next Spring. Our first year was a great success. They grew flowers, tomatoes, cucumbers, lavender, marigold, thyme, basil, mint and oregano. We used the fresh herbs for cooking and shared our tomatoes with family and friends. When your garden produces an abundance of cucumbers, you make canned pickles. The club members enjoyed learning how to make pickles. They will continue to visit local farms to learn different ways to expand a garden.
Many Improvements
Thanks to Lowe’s Heroes

As part of collaboration project with Lowe’s Home Improvement Stores, approximately 50 employees volunteered their time to work on various landscaping projects at three WH Community House sites.

Lowe’s volunteers came from 4 local stores including Milford, Derby, New Haven and Orange. The cost of the materials to complete the projects were paid for by Lowe’s. We cannot thank Lowe’s enough for their generous support.

Each year employees participate in Lowe’s Heroes volunteers program through education and community improvement projects. In addition to a few projects at the main building’s playground area, the projects for Community Connections include installing a fence at our Wood Street residence, as well as landscaping and building a raised garden bed at our Elm Street house.

Community Connection’s Staff Award Recipients

Ashley Malstrom
Ashley is a key element in ensuring that our clients and their families are always in the communications loop and through precise and accurate documentation can easily meet all benchmarks as required. She is a tremendous advocate for our clients and excels at making people feel comfortable and able to discuss sensitive topics.

Seyue Roesler
Seyue always goes above and beyond to make sure that the individuals he serves will never go without the proper supervision and assistance. Since Seyue joined our team in 2009, our Residential program has provided consistent, positive and caring staffing, keeping resident routines and programs on schedule while striving to fill open positions.

Gardening can be a lot of fun, but bending over low to the ground garden beds are not fun. Thanks to Lowe’s Heroes, the garden club will have fresh new raised garden beds for next year at our Elm St home.

As you can see from the before and after photos above, the fence at our Wood Street residence was in poor condition. Lowe’s Heroes put up a new one.

In addition to the garden beds, the front and side of the Elm St home was beautifully landscaped.