

2011 Community Funding – Eight Donations of \$500.00 each

St. Vincent DePaul Mission of Waterbury, Waterbury

The Soup Kitchen allows the area's poor to receive, at no cost to them, nutritionally balanced, hot, noontime meals six days a week. In this building, they are able to provide an education and training program to teach the homeless adults living in the shelter a work ethic, and at the same time, restaurant job skills. The Soup Kitchen offers hot, full-course noontime meals to the poor and homeless. The mission of the Soup Kitchen is to provide decent meals to the hungry, who are not capable of providing for themselves. The Soup Kitchen serves 350 a day.

The House of Bread, Inc., Hartford

Project F.E.A.S.T. (Food, Education, and Service Training) is a job-training program in the culinary arts, in which participants obtain a certificate of food safety. The program provides unemployed men and women with the training and on-the-job experience necessary to gain employment in the food service industry. As part of the day-to-day process of preparing and feeding 10,000 meals in the kitchen each month, trainees have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with all stations found in any commercial kitchen. In the kitchen, the Job Training Program focuses on three areas: practical culinary skills, food sanitation and working as a team. These skills ensure that graduates can secure employment and move up the experience ladder in any kitchen environment. Since October 1999, numerous graduates have participated in F.E.A.S.T.

Caroline House, Bridgeport

The organization was established to enable women and children to reach the fullness of their potential through education in English language and life skills. Caroline House, founded and staffed by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, is a (501) (C) (3) non-profit organization serving women and their children without regard to their racial, religious or ethnic background. They have a Counselor/Life Resource Coordinator to ensure that Caroline House is well-linked to existing agencies and services, and to assist women participants at their point of need to find the proper service provider for difficulties related to domestic violence. They also have the Caroline Connection in Wilton, Conn. for tutoring of Health Care and Kitchen workers in need of English.

The Chester Addison Community Center, Stamford

The Chester Addison Community Center is a vibrant, comprehensive community center serving the social, emotional, educational, and health needs of Stamford's Waterside residents. Programming is provided in the following areas: Education, Physical/Mental Health, Recreation, Technology, Financial Literacy, Arts/Hobbies, Mentoring, and Life Skills. Every Friday the kitchen is alive with the scents and sounds of cooking! Beginning with the 4th and 5th grade group, each grade has a chance to participate in a six-week cooking session. Not only do they do the hands on cooking, but they also learn about nutrition and the food pyramid, as well as do projects creating their own recipes. Their cooking creations have included things like fajita pizzas, fruit smoothies and a delicious banana dessert.

Sickle Cell Disease Association of America Southern Connecticut, New Haven

The mission is to provide education, screening, counseling, and support services to persons affected with sickle cell disease and the trait. The S.C.O.P.E program educates students about Sickle Cell Disease and involves developing peer educators in the schools. The goal is to ensure a network of partners dedicated to promoting a healthy lifestyle for patients with sickle cell disease. In the past two years, they have tested 430 individuals for the disease and trait. Counseling services are provided to those who have a positive result.

CT Autism Spectrum Resource Center (ASRC), Wallingford

The ASRC is a family run, non-profit organization in Connecticut that serves individuals with autism spectrum disorders, their family members and the professionals who work with them. The mission of the ASRC is to provide, through our many programs, the most recent information and research to help parents and professionals understand the barriers and challenges people with autism spectrum disorders face on a daily basis. The Center is committed to raising public awareness about autism spectrum disorders, and is devoted to empowering families and lessening their isolation. They are also dedicated to educating families, professionals and the general public on the strengths that people with autism spectrum disorders have and to promote the respect that they deserve.

The Covenant Shelter of New London, New London

The primary goal of this corporation is to meet the emergency housing needs of the people of New London County through the provision of emergency shelter. Specifically the corporation was formed to provide, without profit, emergency shelter to those in need in the area and without resources, financial or otherwise, to provide for themselves; provide emergency food and lodging on an interim basis to indigent travelers and other needy persons; and to provide for the spiritual welfare, nourishment and shelter needs of the poor, distressed and the underprivileged on an interim basis. The program provides: Temporary Shelter, 14 beds for single men, 3 beds for single females, 5 family rooms, Nutritious Meals, Case Management, Educational Classes and Programs, and Parent Education.

Madison Community Services, Inc., Madison

The organization provides assistance by providing both the funding and the volunteers to address three areas of concern – Special Assistance Programs: this includes, School Supply Assistance, Camp Scholarships and Holiday Food Baskets; Medical Transportation: residents who are unable to make medical appointments due to lack of transportation are provided with a both a ride and the gentle encouragement that only a caring neighbor can provide; and Food Pantry: volunteers stock the pantry shelves with close to 2,000 pounds of food and assist local residents as they choose from a variety of perishable and non-perishable items. Madison Community Services, Inc. is proud to offer this service to over 70 families on a weekly basis. Because MCS is an association of volunteers, 100 percent of donations go directly to support services and programs.