



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALWAYS HOME AWARDED MAJOR MULTI-YEAR GRANT

Mystic, CT (May 29, 2019) — Always Home announced the award of a multi-year grant by the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut. The \$75,000 funding, to be allocated over a three-year period, will support Always Home’s work Preventing Family Homelessness. The non-profit agency works exclusively with homeless and at-risk families with minor children.

Always Home’s Interim Executive Director, Betty Smith, acknowledged the importance of securing this grant. “Always Home is committed to addressing the issue of family homelessness in Eastern Connecticut,” said Smith. “We seek to tailor our programs and outreach efforts to best meet the needs of our client families in the most efficient and effective manner possible. The Community Foundation’s support gives us the opportunity to thoughtfully grow our existing programs, to explore new and innovative ways to enhance our homelessness prevention capacity, and to plan ahead with certainty.”

Every day families in our communities struggle to remain housed. Many are living at or near the Federal Poverty Level, unable to afford the area’s high rents on their minimum wage jobs. For these low-income, working families a relatively minor financial crisis is enough to trigger an episode of homelessness. Helping families in housing crisis is of critical importance to the youngest members of our community as it spares them the negative and lasting impacts of homelessness. Last fiscal year, Always Home served 231 families seeking emergency housing assistance (729 family members including 435 children under the age of 18). By combining case management support, short-term financial assistance and creative homelessness prevention services, Always Home helped these families find immediate solutions to their housing crisis, avoid time spent in shelter and create a viable path forward.

“Preventing family homelessness takes the work of many,” adds Smith. “We are grateful to the Community Foundation and its philanthropic donors who, through this grant, will make a positive and enduring impact on the lives of our region’s most vulnerable families.”

About Always Home

Always Home is a private 501(C)3 non-profit formed in 1998 to address the needs of Eastern Connecticut's homeless and imminently homeless families. Formerly known as Mystic Area Shelter & Hospitality, Inc. (MASH), the agency continues to pursue its mission of Preventing Family Homelessness. As a key player in the Eastern Coordinated Access Network (ECAN), Always Home works closely with the other service providers in the Eastern Connecticut regional network to ensure that at-risk families receive the services they need to attain housing stability.

For more information about Always Home, visit www.alwayshome.org