

CONCORD COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

# Annual Report 2016-2017

June 2017

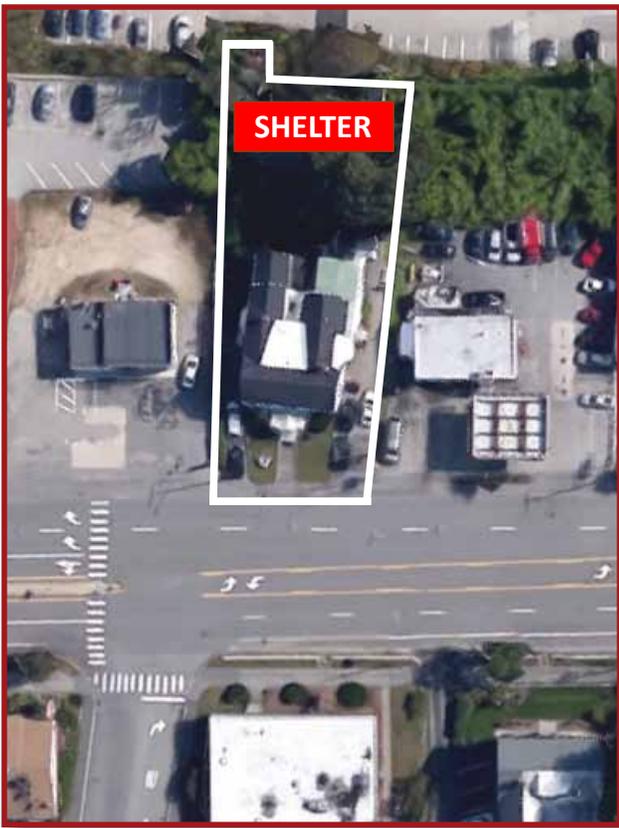


Photo Courtesy of Warrenstreet Group

## Creating "Safe Spaces"!

With the launching of our comprehensive *Safe Spaces* campaign, the CCEH is entering a new and exciting phase of growth.

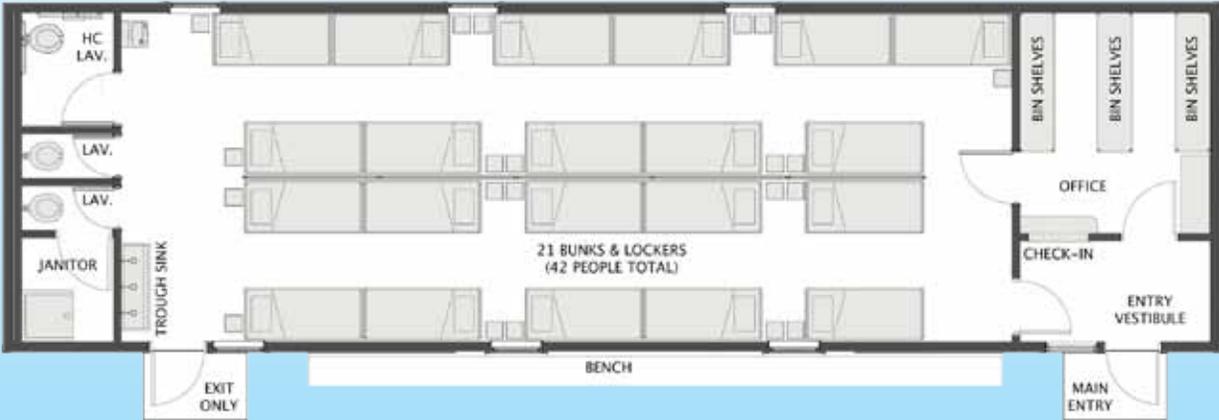
The objective? To strengthen and expand our ability to serve those experiencing homelessness with the safe spaces and services they need, in an atmosphere of dignity and respect. The goal? \$528,000 in private donations.

The most noticeable result of the three-year *Safe Spaces* campaign will be the building of a new emergency winter shelter located behind our existing Resource Center on North Main Street. Architectural renditions of the shelter are at the top and bottom of this page. An aerial view of the lot and approximate site location are pictured at left.

The *Safe Spaces* campaign will also enable us to purchase that property, which we are currently renting, manage the new shelter annually from December through March, and ensure sufficient operating funds to maintain all of our other programs.

As part of the *Safe Spaces* Campaign, we have also

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## SAFE SPACES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

applied for major funding for the construction and site work through the Community Development Finance Authority and New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority.

We have received commitments of over \$60,000 from early supporters of *Safe Spaces*, including CenterPoint Church, South Congregational Church, local benefactor William Faulkner, and all of the CCEH Board members.

We are truly grateful to Mayor Bouley for the leadership he has shown on this issue and to the following Concord-area businesses and individuals in the initial stages of the shelter development:

- Jonathan Halle, Warrenstreet Architects
- Jeff Lewis, Northpoint Engineering
- Richard Uchida, Hinckley Allen, LLP
- Gary Chicoine Construction Corporation
- Darragh Madden, Irish Electric Corporation
- Granite State Plumbing and Heating
- Dana Nute, Resilient Buildings Group
- Mark Sargent, Richard D. Bartlett & Assoc., Land Surveyors
- Tenley Callaghan, Cleveland, Waters & Bass, P.A.
- Amy Lockwood, Full Circle Consulting
- Jerry Walls, Concord Realty Advisors
- Tom Fredenburg and Hilary Thompson
- Christine Tilley
- Jack Eberth
- John Eller



Photos courtesy of Mulberry Creek Imagery

## 2017 SouperFest a Souper Success!

The eighth annual CCEH SouperFest, held on March 18, 2017, at Rundlett Middle School, was a resounding success! And the stats help to explain why: 200 volunteers, 800 attendees, 1,860 bowls of soup eaten, \$46,000 raised to help those most in need in our community, and fun for all.

Attendees sampled 30 specialty soups crafted by chefs from the Concord area, along with artisan breads and unique desserts. More than 25 individuals, including professional potters, and many Rundlett art students made hand-crafted ceramic soup bowls which were sold that day. Thank you to the greater Concord Community and our sponsors and donors! Special thanks to the Concord Food Co-op, the Boys and Girls Club of Central NH, the League of NH Craftsmen, and the Kimball Jenkins School of Art, for their continued partnership in this event.



## Housing First Concord

# The Goal is “Functional Zero”!

The way to end homelessness is with permanent housing. Almost a year ago, CCEH received federal funding to provide rental assistance to 11 chronically homeless individuals in Concord, so they could afford to rent an apartment in the private market. But the transition from long-term homelessness to permanent housing can be challenging, and intensive caseworker support is needed.

Thanks to generous funding from Lincoln Financial Foundation and the State of New Hampshire, CCEH is able to provide that caseworker support, and assist our clients to locate an apartment, negotiate with the landlord, and achieve stability in their new home.

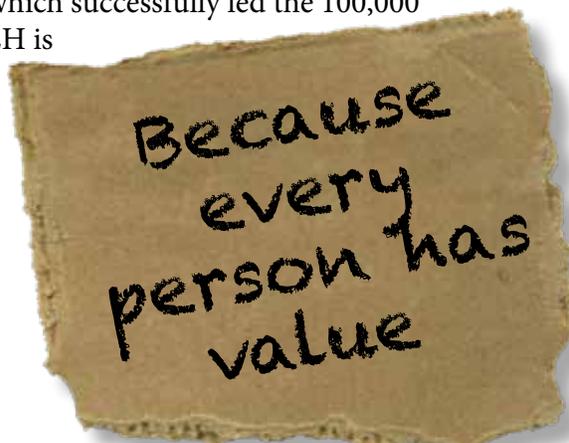
Through a partnership with Concord Housing and Redevelopment, our Housing First caseworker also supports some formerly homeless clients in public housing apartments. A total of 15 chronically homeless individuals are now housed through Housing First Concord!

With a vacancy rate of less than three percent in Concord, it is challenging to find affordable apartments and landlords who are willing to rent to someone who lacks a strong rental history. CCEH will continue to seek additional rental assistance funding and build relationships with private landlords, with a goal of permanently housing all of the individuals in Concord who are experiencing chronic homelessness.

### Looking Ahead

We believe we can end homelessness in Concord. “Ending Homelessness” means that all people who are chronically homeless receive the long-term rental assistance and the caseworker support they need to become and remain permanently housed. It also means that there is a system and resources in place to quickly house anyone who falls into homelessness. We call this “Functional Zero,” and we can get there!

In April 2017, CCEH and the State of New Hampshire joined “Built for Zero,” which is a year-long learning collaborative facilitated by Community Solutions, which successfully led the 100,000 Homes Campaign. CCEH is looking forward to the coaching and peer support we will receive to create a “By-Name List” of chronically homeless people in New Hampshire, and gather the resources necessary to house each person.



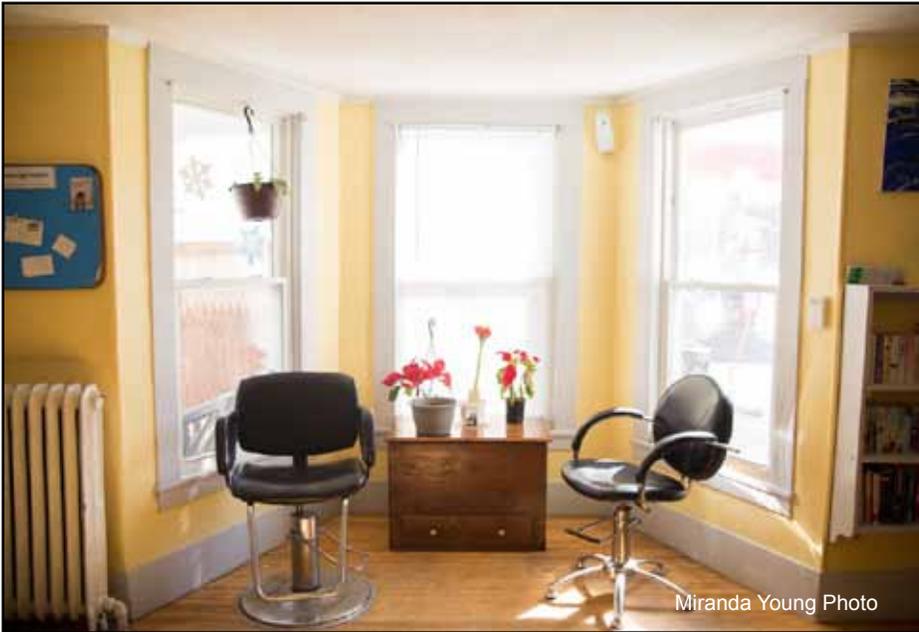
## What is Homelessness?

For the vast majority of people who experience homelessness in their lifetime, homelessness is a one-time event brought on by some kind of crisis, such as the loss of a job. For a small percentage of homeless people (10-20%), it becomes a chronic condition which can go on for years. Disabilities, including physical, developmental, mental health, or substance use disorder, make it almost impossible for someone to get back on their feet without assistance.

## What is Concord's Plan to End Homelessness

With major support from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and the Granite United Way, CCEH continues to lead the implementation of Concord's Plan to End Homelessness, which was adopted by the City Council in April 2014.

The Steering Committee to oversee the Plan, comprised of leaders from business, government, and private sectors, meets every two months. CCEH's focus on Housing First as a priority, and our decision to create a winter shelter, are both advancing the priorities in the Plan. Over the next few months, the Steering Committee will be revisiting the goals under the Plan and setting our next set of priorities for the future.



## Concord Homeless Resource Center A Safe and Welcoming Place

The Resource Center continues to serve as a safe and welcoming place for people struggling with homelessness. Some guests may come to the Resource Center only once, while others visit frequently over a period of time.

Partner agencies use the Resource Center as a place to provide their services. For example, the Downtown Clinic, operated by Concord Hospital's Family Health Center, brings a team of medical professionals once a month to serve our guests. Clinicians from Riverbend Community Mental Health come twice a week, reaching out to guests who may suffer from mental health or substance use disorders.

Other services available to our guests include:

- Meeting with a caseworker to access services
- Obtaining a photo ID
- Receiving and sending mail
- Use of computers, phone, and fax machine
- Shower and bathroom facilities
- Laundry facilities
- Haircuts
- Charging cell phones
- Availability of hygiene products
- Coffee and ready-to-eat food
- Trained volunteers who provide a compassionate listening ear

Last year, the Resource Center served 630 unique individuals people. (Male 65%, Female 35%.) We average 35 to 40 people per day.



## CONCORD COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

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