

CCEH Turns 10 Years Old and...



Cuts the Ribbon on the New Emergency Winter Shelter!

The completion of the Emergency Winter Shelter ends three years of uncertainty for some of Concord's most vulnerable residents, and opens a new phase in our work to end homelessness in Concord.

Shelters don't end homelessness, but they are an essential part of our community strategy because they keep people alive and safe until permanent housing is secured. The Emergency Winter Shelter will accommodate up to 40 individuals during the freezing winter months. Located just steps away from our Resource Center, guests can make use of caseworker support, a shower, laundry and other services as they seek permanent housing.

This shelter was a true community effort, made possible by scores of individuals and organizations who have contributed time, talent and resources. Debt-free financing is provided by the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority, and 19 businesses donated funds through the Community Development Finance Authority tax credit program. A major grant from the Rotary Club of Concord kicked off the Safe Spaces Campaign to raise private donations for construction, as well as operating funds for all of CCEH's programs. See inside for more details!



**Rotary Club of Concord
Supports Shelter with \$50,000!**



SouperFest 2018 continued the tradition of bringing hundreds of people together to raise funds and celebrate the strong connections of our community. Guests sampled over 30 delicious soups, while enjoying the beautiful artisan bowls and bowl art for sale, and youngsters had a blast in the FunFest bouncy houses.

Over 200 volunteers made the event possible, and sponsorships from over 40 local businesses and faith communities made this our most successful event ever--raising over \$63,000 to fund CCEH's programs. Special thanks to Super-Platinum Sponsor Concord Orthopaedics, Platinum Sponsors Merrimack County Savings Bank and Northeast Delta Dental, Gold Sponsors The Common Man, Metzger/McGuire and Modern Woodmen of America, and our event partners, Concord Food Co-op and the Boys and Girls Club of Central NH.

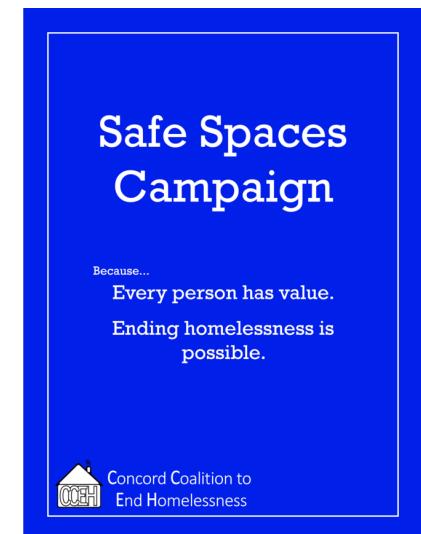
Permanent Housing Ends Homelessness

CCEH's Housing First Concord Program provides rental assistance and intensive caseworker support to chronically homeless individuals to help them stay stably housed. When the daily stress of being homeless is removed, they can work on underlying issues and pursue positive goals. This is good for them, and for the community. People who are chronically homeless often make extensive use of public services, such as shelters, hospitals, emergency rooms, jails and prisons, all at a great cost to the community. Permanent supportive housing decreases the use of all these public services.

CCEH has received rental assistance to house four more people, bringing the total in this program to 14. We also provide caseworker support to several formerly homeless individuals who live in subsidized apartments.

As long as poverty exists, people may fall into homelessness. CCEH's goal is "Functional Zero," which is when every chronically homeless person in the greater Concord area has access to permanent housing and support, and there is a system and resources in place to rapidly re-house people who do become homeless.

Safe Spaces Campaign a Tremendous Success!



In the spring of 2017, CCEH launched our Safe Spaces Campaign and set an ambitious goal—to raise \$528,000 in private donations and pledges in just three years. Our goal: Combine these private donations with grants and fundraising events to purchase the Resource Center property, construct the Emergency Winter Shelter and provide basic operating funds for all of CCEH's current programs for three years.

What can we say? Your tremendous generosity met our three-year goal in less than a year! We can now focus our attention on bringing more permanent housing solutions to Concord.

We thank you for putting your trust in us, and we make this promise: We will not stop working until there are sufficient housing and services to support every chronically homeless person in greater Concord, and there is a system in place to rapidly re-house those who do become homeless.

What's Ahead

CCEH is completing its strategic planning and goal-setting for the next three years. Our list includes ensuring the strength of the Resource Center and Emergency Winter Shelter, expanding our Housing First Concord Program, and working with our partners to increase housing opportunities and support for people struggling with chronic homelessness. With your help, we will accomplish all of these goals!

Concord's Plan to End Homelessness

In April 2014, the city adopted a Plan to End Homelessness. CCEH leads the implementation of this Plan, working with a Steering Committee appointed by the city. This spring, the Steering Committee has refreshed its priorities under the goals of the Plan. All of CCEH's goals are in line with these priorities.





Assistance with Dignity

The **Resource Center** continues to provide immediate assistance to people struggling with homelessness, including: caseworker support, laundry, showers, haircuts and services from other providers, such as the Downtown Clinic, VA, and Riverbend Community Mental Health.

Over the past year, the Resource Center served about 45 people a day, providing over 600 individuals with support and a warm, welcoming place.

A Message from Executive Director Ellen Groh

This has been an amazing year for CCEH, and I am honored to work in a community that has such generosity, and such compassion for people who are struggling with homelessness. Since our Safe Spaces Campaign was announced, a tidal wave of support that I never imagined has propelled us forward. The Board, staff, and I are all deeply grateful.

Of course, there have been unexpected obstacles (water damage in the Resource Center when pipes burst during the winter freeze, unexpected items in the soil when we started digging!) but at every turn, our partners were dedicated to finding solutions. Working to end homelessness often feels like two steps forward and one step back, but I am inspired and humbled every day by the resilience I witness in the people we serve, and in this city's sense of community and purpose. We are here to take care of each other.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Together, we will end homelessness in Concord!

With gratitude,
Ellen



P.O. Box 3933
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 290-3375
ConcordHomeless.org

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