Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut and Chelsea Groton Foundation Fund Mother's Retreat Vocational Program



Posing with the Big Check, from left: Allison DeBlasio, Fund Development Specialist for The Connection; Sue Olszewski, Chelsea Groton Bank Foundation; and Sherrie Weaver, Program Director for Mother's Retreat.

The Mother's Retreat program has received two grants totaling $5,500 to provide vocational programming for clients. The Community Foundation of Eastern provided $4,500 for this initiative and the Chelsea Groton Foundation provided $1,000.

The vocational specialist will work with clients to build a foundation of job readiness that each client can draw upon after graduating from the program to secure employment and create a long-term plan for economic security for their family. The vocational specialist will spend several hours per week at Mother's Retreat with that time divided between individual client work and a weekly group session. Each client will graduate with an individualized employment plan, functional resume, and cover letter template, allowing her to re-enter the community with the tools in hand to find employment immediately.

The Mother's Retreat program provides housing and support services for pregnant or parenting women who are struggling to overcome addictions. The program assists young women in their recovery from substance use by providing quality clinical services and individualized treatment in a warm, supportive environment. Mother's Retreat also assists women who are seeking to reunite with their children. All clients participate in a personal recovery plan, as well as individual and group education. Program services include relapse prevention assistance, drug and addiction education, relationship and communication skills, life skills, co-occurring education, discharge planning, health and wellness, vocational education, education readiness, parenting skills, women's issues, community outreach activities, and counseling assistance.