



Always Home | PREVENTING FAMILY HOMELESSNESS
Serving Communities Since 1998

April 2024 E-Newsletter

This Heart to Heart was Unforgettable!



*David Schulz and Karen Stone with Tricia Cunningham,
Executive Director of Always Home*



*State Senator Heather Somers with Amanda Arling,
President of The Whaler's Inn*

Always Home's HEART TO HEART gala on Friday, April 19th, drew 350 attendees who came together to Prevent Family Homelessness and to recognize community leaders Karen Stone, David Schulz, Amanda Arling and The Whalers Inn. Also present was State Senator Heather Somers who acknowledged this year's gala honorees with Certificates of Special Recognition.

In her remarks, Always Home's Executive Director Tricia Cunningham commended Mystic residents Karen Stone and David Schulz, Amanda Arling, President of The Whaler's Inn, and The Whaler's Inn for their unwavering support of Always Home and their commitment to building a healthier and more vibrant community for everyone. "Our honorees this year care wholeheartedly about the health and well-being of their neighbors," said Cunningham. "They have each made a tremendous impact throughout our community from economic development, growing tourism, growing civic engagement and advocacy, environmental stewardship and extensive board leadership. Their collective impact is felt far and wide."

Watch the video below to learn what supporting community means to Amanda, Karen, David and Always Home.



CLICK HERE FOR GALA PHOTOS! *Our thanks to Anne Ogden of Lighthouse Reflections for capturing all the fun!*



This year's Heart to Heart Gala surpassed all previous successes, raising \$150,000 towards Always Home's work addressing the emergency housing needs of our region's low-income families. In addition to the generosity of the event guests, Cunningham recognized the dedication of the Event Committee members, event volunteers and the invaluable contributions of Gala Sponsors, Patrons, and Auction Donors, whose support made the event a reality. "Success is not about a single organization, individual, or business," she said. "It's about what we achieve by working together."

[Click Here for a Full List of Gala Patrons and Corporate Sponsors](#)

Wheels to Work Provides Transportation Solutions that Keep Families Housed



Jill recently shared...

"I want to thank Always Home and their Groton Wheels2Work for helping make our family vehicle safe for the road. Having a safe vehicle allows my son to have transportation for work. It allows me to attend my medical appointments and go to the grocery store. I had two cancers which has left me on disability with limited finances and vehicle repairs are very expensive, so we are very grateful for those who have made this program possible."



Pam wants you to know...

"I had become discouraged and started to feel hopeless with the inability to retrieve our car back from the shop and falling behind on so many bills and with my personal financial hardships and set back from an auto collision, my family has been struggling for what seemed like almost a year now. Always Home program have gifted that privilege back to us and the ability to breathe a little easier with one less debt weighing on us. For this I am forever thankful and humbled. I feel forever indebted to you."

Always Home is also grateful to the following funders for providing critical program grants since the start of 2024: Berkshire Bank Foundation; Bodenwein Public Benevolent Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee; Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut; Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency- Emergency Food & Shelter Program; Eastern Connecticut Association of Realtors; M & T Charitable Foundation; Rotary Club of Mystic; Rotary of the Stoningtons; and Walmart Spark Good.
