



Rebuilding older lives by restoring independence. One life at a time.

JUNE 2019

NEWSLETTER

VISION

Formerly homeless seniors will obtain and sustain safe, appropriate housing.

MISSION

Renewal House provides transitional housing, case management, counseling and life skills enhancement to older men and women who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless so they may be empowered to restore their lives.

GOALS

To transition displaced seniors to independent living in safe, legal, affordable housing and to support them, as needed in maintaining independence.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Empowerment • Respect •
Resiliency • Client Self Advocacy
& Self Determination

How Can You Help? You Already Have

Your support of Renewal House
has made stories
like those you will read here possible

What Do We Know About Homelessness Among Older Adults?

- Homelessness among older adults is on a clear upward trend nationwide
- Senior homelessness is largely a result of poverty and a lack of affordable senior housing
- At least 9 seniors are waiting for each unit of affordable senior housing
- The wait for housing is between 3 – 5 years

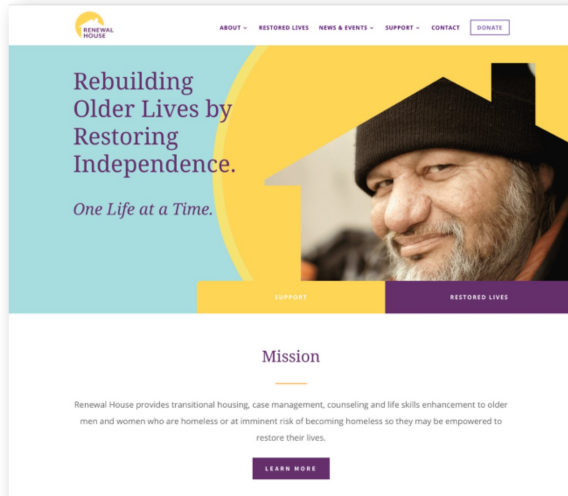
Source: National Coalition for the Homeless



Renewal House graduate Loretta Sampson
receives her Tablet Computer Literacy Certificate from
Ruby Ryles of New Hope Baptist Church

Celebrating 20 years of rebuilding lives

Visit our website:
renewalhousedanbury.org



renewalhousedanbury.org

It's the Place to Go

- To learn about the compelling need that Renewal House fills
- To learn about the fantastic support Renewal House receives
- To learn about how YOUR SUPPORT restores lives

Don't wait!

Check out the new Renewal House website today!

With Thanks to All Who Supported Renewal House Annual Breakfast May 3, 2019



Peggy Katkocin with silent auction basket from New Fairfield merchants



Valerie O'Rourke, Carolyn Marston, Jean Edwards



Cecilia Gozzi



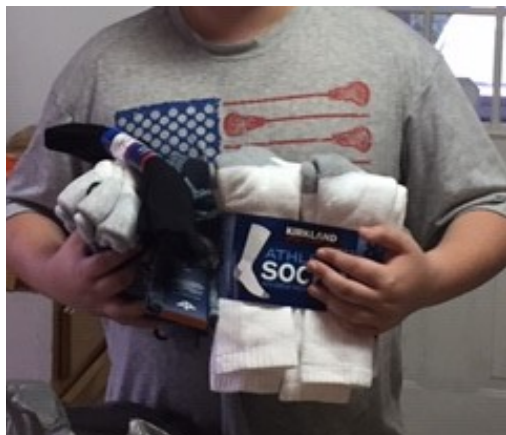
Mary Korin, Roland & Faye Walton from New Hope Baptist Church, Joe Simon & Michael Murphy from Dorothy Day Hospitality House



Becky Strominger—the lucky 50/50 winner

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We commend the students of Newtown Middle School for their student-led sock drive to benefit Renewal House

Welcome

Have you ever moved to an unfamiliar place and wondered...how do they do things here?

Every new Renewal House resident wonders the same thing. Should I stay in my room or can I enjoy the whole house? Can I eat anything I want from the refrigerator? When can I use the washing machine? How much should I tell my housemates about my journey? Should I be wary or should I feel welcome?

Thanks to the collaborative work of the current Renewal House residents, these questions will be answered in a Welcome Guide they have created for new residents.

The Guide has been written from the perspective of those who are actually walking the path from homelessness to independence.

A consistent message throughout the guide:

You are not alone.

Then She Found Renewal House

Rhonda was a nature lover. She especially liked feeding birds, an activity that calmed her. Calmness was something she needed.

Rhonda was an accomplished person who had always taken care of herself. She earned a college degree and worked at a training school – until her world fell apart. Her beloved son died, and her abusive and manipulative daughter was no source of support as Rhonda grieved.

Life became overwhelming; her depression deepened. Rhonda began to isolate, and she began to hoard. Over time, her home became uninhabitable. She let her own health go and, for the first time in her life, at 85 years old she could no longer live on her own.

Then she found Renewal House –

Having supportive, caring people around her gave Rhonda a sense of hope. She made friends at Renewal House and soon became “queen” of the house. She made the community connections she so desperately needed to restore her mental and physical health. Within a year, she was able to return to independent living in an assisted living community – a community where she can see trees and birds once again.

Phases of Acclimation to Renewal House

Survival

Rest

Recover

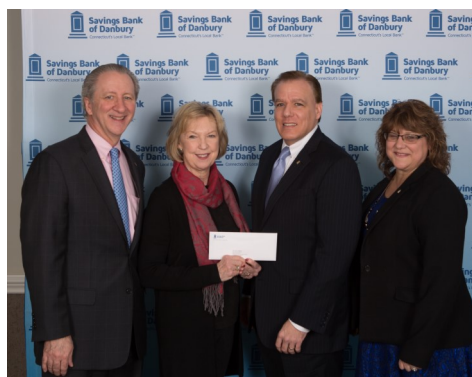
Bounce Back

Think Positive

Plan and Hope for the Future

Renewal House Appreciates Recent Grants

Bethel United Methodist Women
 Bridgewater Congregational Church
 Christ Church Parish
 Fairfield County's Community Foundation
 First Church of Christ Congregational, Redding
 First Congregational Church, Danbury
 First Congregational Church, New Fairfield
 Jensen's, Inc.
 Kathryn and Ronald Jr Herman Charitable Foundation
 Newtown Lions Club Foundation
 Ridgefield Thrift Shop
 Rotary Club of Danbury
 Savings Bank of Danbury Foundation
 The Lawrence J Portell & Natalie D Portell Foundation, Inc.
 The Peter & Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation
 Valley Presbyterian Church
 Womans Club of Danbury/New Fairfield



The Savings Bank of Danbury generously supports Renewal House



Jayne Flynn presents a grant from the Ridgefield Thrift Shop to support the delivery of services to Renewal House residents and graduates

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