

Thames River Community Service

Families Creating
Self-sufficiency

SUMMER • 2014

Family Program • CT Rapid Re-housing • Supportive Housing
One Thames River Place, Norwich, CT 06360 • Phone – 860-887-3288 • Fax – 860-887-4146 • www.trfp.org

Our Partnership Gets Results

Dear Friend of Thames River Family Program,

Thames River Community Service Inc. has three programs to help end homelessness in New London County. Thames River Family Program is a maximum two year 24 apartment program for formerly homeless families headed by women that helps them become self-sufficient. Thames River Supportive Housing Program is permanent housing with rental subsidies and support services for formerly homeless families. Thames River Rapid Re-housing Program takes individuals and families out of shelters and off the streets and finds them housing and provides services for up to 12 months.

We have great success. For example, the families in Thames River Family Program engage in work and educational opportunities while attending in-house programs on parenting, money management, home management, education/employment, communication, personal growth, and family health and mental health. **We get results. At least 33 women have gone on to own their own homes after Thames River Family Program and 76 children have been reunited with their families because they came to Thames River.**

You are part of these successes. Your support enables us to operate our housing programs that change people's lives and gives them hope for the future. We thank you for your past support and ask for your continued help at this time.

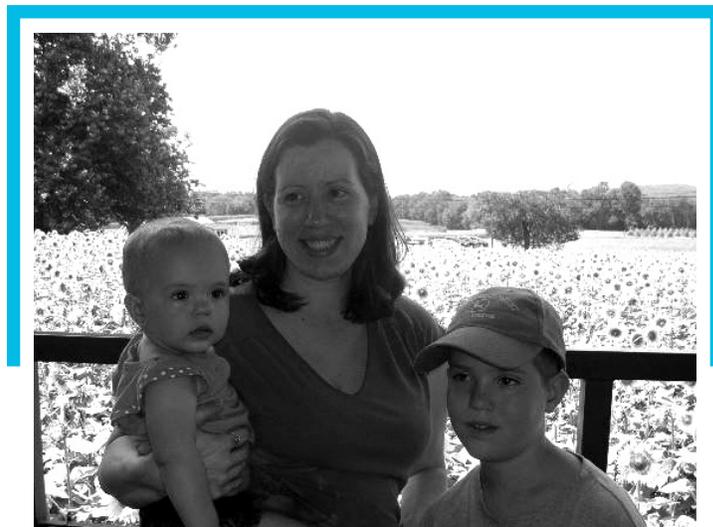
If you have donated in the past, can you increase your donation a little? If you have not given in a few years, can you give again? If you have never made a contribution, can you make a small donation?

Thank you for all you do to help the mothers and children we serve.

Peace,



Thomas J. Hyland, Executive Director



Buttonwood Farm Ice Cream, Griswold, Connecticut

Summer Camp Experiences Create Lasting Memories

Kathy Allen, Director of Services and Operations

Thanks to a grant from the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut Foundation, 15 children had the opportunity to attend camps throughout the state and in Canada, giving our children the experiences of a lifetime!

For children whose only previous "camping experience" might have been sleeping altogether in one room in an emergency shelter or on the floor in different friends' or families' homes, more positive memories have now been created. For these

children, the typical camp activities were only a part of the benefits for them. The experience offered an opportunity to build self-esteem, self-confidence and leadership skills that will play an important role in their continuing development long after leaving Thames River Family Program.



Essex Steam Train, Essex, Connecticut

*Support came from the Norwich Youth Fund of the
Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut.*



A United Way Member Agency

Summer Day Camp

Kathy Allen, Director of Services and Operations

While only our school-age children were able to attend day camps and overnight camps outside of Thames River Family Program, all of our other children participated in our eight-week Summer Day Camp held on site. With the help of the Norwich Youth Fund of the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut and our intern, Maria Hite, the younger children were kept busy this summer with several activities throughout the day.

Maria, who was here through the University of Notre Dame's Summer Services Learning Program, provided a variety of activities including a read-a-thon, arts and crafts and recreation activities each day throughout June, July and August. During that time, our families were able to take trips to places such as Buttonwood Farm, the Essex Steam Train, and the Roger Williams Zoo as well.

Before Maria left to go back to Indiana, she ended the summer of fun with a day-long carnival. It was a great way for the kids to wrap up the eight weeks and to thank Maria for all of her hard work!



Maria and kids strike a pose

New Approach to Prevent, Reduce Homelessness

Kathy Allen, Director of Services and Operations

On July 14, 2014, all of New London County providers of housing for families who are homeless, including Thames River Family Program, officially started the Coordinated Access Network (CAN).

This is a system change that helps communities to focus on rapidly ending each person's homelessness and connecting them to permanent housing as quickly as possible. No longer will people who are facing housing crisis have to go through all of the housing service providers in our region to have their housing needs met. Whether someone is homeless and needs emergency shelter, or permanent supportive housing or transitional housing, **or**, if someone is on the brink of homelessness, but might be able to avoid this if they could get help to pay their rent or utilities, there is now a single "front door" where they can go to access all of these community resources. As part of this network, TRFP will receive referrals through the Coordinated Intake Process rather than from the individual service providers from which a family is receiving services. Service providers in New London County are truly working together as a network to end homelessness for families.



Maria and kids love to read in their special box.

Visit Us on Our Website and Facebook

Want to learn more about Thames River Community Service? Our website features information on each program, ways you can contribute, awards from area foundations and upcoming events. Our Facebook page shares achievements of residents of Thames River Family Program and news about upcoming events. Both have links to other area agencies involved in ending homelessness in the region.

Please "Like" us on Facebook and stay informed. Share posts with your friends, family, and community organizations and spread the word about our programs, achievements and more. Be part of the solution!

Please visit our website at www.trfp.org to learn more about Thames River Community Service, ending homelessness, and to donate. Donations can be made by MasterCard, VISA, or PayPal. **Please also email astrida@trfp.org to send us your email so that we can save on mailing expenses.** 