



## CCEH COVID-19 Response Newsletter

### Letter from our CEO



I want to wish all of you a Happy Independence Day. I really do. But right now, it feels impossible to think about celebrating anything amidst an ongoing public health emergency, a struggling economy, the ongoing needs we are seeing among people experiencing homelessness, and more recently, the loss of one of our greatest heroes and leaders in our coalition.

Last Friday afternoon, David Dudley, Director of New Opportunities' ShelterNOW in Meriden and one of CCEH's Board of Directors, breathed his last breath. His loss was especially painful because his passing took place at the shelter, where he was spending nearly all of his days and nights. It seems no exaggeration to say that he gave his whole mind, heart, and body to assisting people experiencing homelessness.

For me personally, David was not just a board member, but also a hero and a role model. He exemplified the kind of compassion, personal commitment, self-sacrifice, and humility that I see in so many of you in our coalition. During my first-ever visit to ShelterNOW, David spoke to me in the soothing, but energetic voice that I came to love about both the challenges and the hope he saw in the people he served at ShelterNOW, who he always referred to as 'guests.' He spoke about a young man to whom he personally gave money management advice (by explaining how he created his own outfits out of a few key pieces) and how the young man took his advice to heart. He asked me about the policy prospects of a Universal Basic Income as a way to help so many of the people he saw who came to his shelter. He spoke with pride about the transformation he brought about at ShelterNOW—shifting its focus from being just a place where people stay to a place that helped launch people toward their better futures.

When I approached him to join our board of directors, he responded with genuine surprise. He called me a few days later to confess that he worried that he was underqualified to join our board given that he never finished his undergraduate studies. I told him that I wish we had more than one David Dudleys on the board given all of the expertise, experience, and passion he brought!

With the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic, David did exactly what we would expect David Dudley to do, which was to put his whole self into the work of protecting the guests and staff at ShelterNOW. Just before the state agreed to assist in the contracting of hotel rooms, David had been working to secure hotel rooms on his own for his guests. He told me that he himself had started staying at a hotel in order to protect his family from COVID-19 should he be exposed at the shelter. More recently, he had been spending his nights at his office at the shelter. He sacrificed so much of himself to the work of ending homelessness and for the protection of his family. And we remain indebted to him, as we are challenged to follow in his example.

Our thoughts go to his wife and daughters, to his extended family, and to all of his colleagues and staff at New Opportunities, Inc. and in the Meriden-Middlesex-Wallingford region.

It is poignant that we have the long Independence Day holiday ahead of us to take some time to remember David and reflect on the kind of world he fought to create, one which upheld the self-evident truths "all [human beings] are created equal, and they are endowed by the Creator with...unalienable Rights to Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." Let us work to carry on David's legacy. Wishing you and your family a meaningful July 4th.

Best, Richard

Yours,

Richard Cho

### Remembering David Dudley



David J. Dudley of Meriden, husband of Jamie Nadile Dudley passed away unexpectedly on June 26, 2020 at the age of 52. David was born in Meriden on January 12, 1968, as the son of Mildred L. McFadden and the late George L. Dudley, Sr.

David was an Orville H. Platt High School graduate (1986) and attended the University of Connecticut on a football scholarship. He was committed to public service for over 13 years; Most recently he served as the Residential Program Director of Meriden's Shelter NOW and was appointed as a board member of the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness. Prior, he was the Program Coordinator for the New Opportunities Fatherhood Initiative where he was recognized for his service to the children and families of the Waterbury community.

David was passionate in his efforts to support the local community and those around him; his work with Shelter NOW was his calling. Foremost, he was a devoted husband and father and spent his free time with his wife and girls.

Besides his wife Jamie, David is survived by his five daughters Jordyn-Marie, Alexa, Hayley, and Olivia Dudley, and Kelly Dormandy; A sister, Sandra Dudley of Meriden, her children Desmond and Jasmin Dudley, and a great nephew, Devon Harrel Jr.; Two brothers, Michael D. Greenwood and his wife, Son Hui, of Dumfries, Va., and their children Lori Dudley, Andrew Pattee, and Kleo Greenwood, and Marvin E. Richards and his wife, Connie, of Meriden. He is also survived by several extended aunts, uncles, sisters and brothers in law, nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his brother George L. Dudley, Jr., and his grandparents Isaac and Pinkie Dudley and Edgar and Mamie Greenwood.

Friends and relatives may call at the John J. Ferry & Sons Funeral Home, 88 E. Main St., Meriden on Thursday, July 2nd, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. A private service will be held at a later date. As most know, David felt his greatest accomplishment was the success of his girls. In Lieu of flowers, we have set up The Dudley Education Fund for college expenses, payable to DudleyEduFund@gmail.com (Zelle). Or, we ask that you please consider helping those experiencing homelessness by donating to Shelter NOW, 43 Saint Casimir Drive, Meriden, CT 06450 in David's name. The shelter is currently only accepting personal hygiene items. For online condolences please visit [jferryfh.com](http://jferryfh.com).

## Final IKEA delivery out the door!

A special thanks to New Reach and of all our wonderful volunteers for turning out to help with the final delivery of IKEA furniture! We are so grateful for everybody who made this whole effort possible!

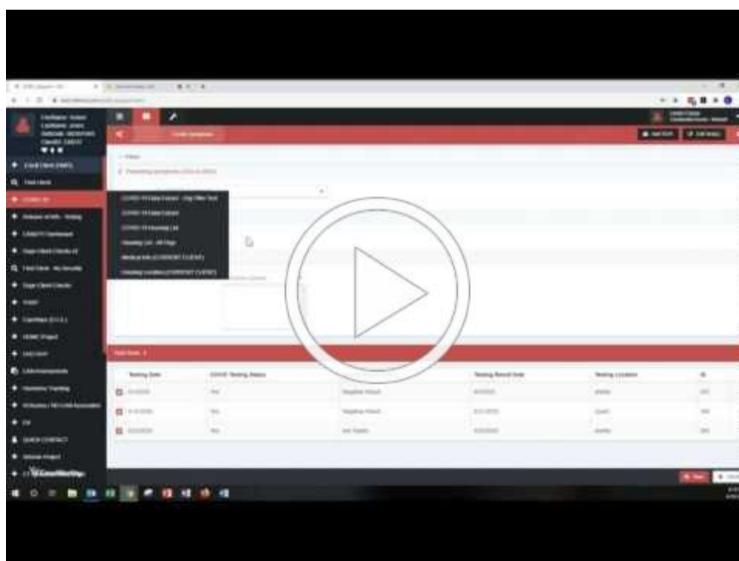


## Action Alert

The latest proposal from the Department of Housing and Urban Development attempts to gut protections for transgender people by removing critical equal access protections to regulations meant to ensure the safety of anyone in need of HUD-funded programs. Make your voice heard. Visit <https://housingsaveslives.org/> to take action now.

## HMIS Update

As many shelter guests transition back to shelter from hotels, testing is more important than ever. Our very own Linda Casey has put together a quick 3 minute video to show how to enter COVID test results in HMIS.



Please feel free to share this video, and if you have any question contact Linda at [info@cceh.org](mailto:info@cceh.org).

## Resources from the National Alliance to End Homelessness

From the National Alliance to End Homelessness, here is some guidance to support communities planning how to use CARES Act resources:

[The Framework for an Equitable COVID-19 Homelessness Response](#)

[Use ESG-CV to Help Those Currently Experiencing Homelessness First](#)

## Cornerstone's New Facility



It is remarkable to see our coalition persevering even in the face of these challenging times! Our friends at Cornerstone hosted an open house this past weekend to showcase their new facility. Located at 93 East Main Street in Vernon it is the site of the former Tri-Town Emergency Shelter. This new remodeled shelter is a warm and cozy place for families. The rooms are equipped with shelves, paintings, and hand-made quilts that residents can take with them once they transition into their home. A lot of the renovation was made possible in large part to the generosity of volunteers.

We are proud of the efforts Cornerstone has made to the mission of ending homelessness.



## be homeful update

This week our be homeful ambassadors met twice! Older kids met to work on a video explaining what they learned on Juneteenth about the relationship between race and homelessness, while the smaller ambassadors met to make welcome home signs for clients moving out of shelter into their new homes thanks to the 1000 Homes effort.

If you know of any amazing kids who care deeply about ending homelessness, please encourage them to reach out and become *be homeful* ambassadors by filling out this [form](#).

Kids of all ages who want to help by making welcome home signs can send them to:

Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness  
c/o the be homeful project  
257 Lawrence Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Please also share your signs via the [be homeful](#) Instagram page!



Picture credit: Lily Rosenthal



Picture credit: Lilo Gaul

## COVID-19 Planning & Response for Homeless Assistance Providers

HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS) invites homeless assistance providers and their partners to participate in weekly Office Hours to discuss COVID-19 planning and response on **Fridays from 2:30 - 4:00 PM EDT**. Presenters from the following federal agencies and their partners will be available for a live question and answer session.

To register please [click here](#).

## How You Can Help

Our providers need your help! This [site](#) includes ways you can join Connecticut's homeless response.

## Webinars & Additional Guidance

With information about COVID rapidly evolving, keeping up-to-date is more important than ever. Stay up-to-date by visiting CCEH's COVID Guidance Page, located at [cceh.org/covid19](https://cceh.org/covid19).

### Spotlight Webinar

#### [Communities Using Data to Analyze Racial Disparities During the Pandemic](#)

CCEH has partnered with the CT Fair Housing Center, CT Legal Services, and CT Department of Housing to provide you with an "Update on the Status of Evictions in Connecticut During the COVID-19 Crisis."

### Upcoming Webinars

#### [Having a Harm Reduction Approach During a Pandemic](#)

Wednesday, July 8, 2020 & July 15, 2020  
2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

#### [Addressing Racialized Trauma and Actively Engaging in Anti-Racism](#)

Thursday, July 30, 2020  
12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.

### Previously Recorded Webinars

#### [Working with Landlords to Rapidly House Successfully: Recruiting, Engaging and Retaining](#)

#### [Hotels to Homes: Rapidly Housing from Hotels During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

#### [Addressing Racial Disparities in Homelessness During COVID-19](#)

#### [Verbal De-Escalation and Crisis Prevention During COVID-19](#)

#### [Responding to COVID-19: An Inside Look into Connecticut's Homeless Response](#)

#### [Caring for and Reducing the Transmission of COVID-19 in Shelters and Hotels: A View from the Field](#)

#### [Shelter to Housing Crash Course: Rapidly Exiting to Permanent Housing](#)

#### [Responding to Violence in the Home During the COVID-19 Crisis](#)

Please [click here](#) to access our entire webinar catalog.

## CCEH in the News

#### [Connecticut may delay re-opening of bars as COVID-19 cases surge in other states and worry about virus spread grows](#)

Hartford Courant | 6.2020

#### [Connecticut prison population almost halved since 2008 peak as pandemic continues](#)

CT Mirror | 06.2020



Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness | 257 Lawrence Street, Hartford, CT 06106

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