



CCEH COVID-19 Response Newsletter

Letter from CCEH Employee Ryan Beach



In May we received a generous offer from IKEA to donate over \$30,000 in furniture which equated to over 100 apartments for individuals who were moving from homelessness to permanent housing. Without hesitation, we accepted, but as we thought over the details it became clear how large of an undertaking this would be.

My career in the homeless sector began as a volunteer moving furniture into apartments. One of the most impactful things I learned was the difference between a house and a home. A house is a roof and walls whereas a home is yours, the place where you live, where you feel comfortable and safe. While I believe almost any house is better than homelessness, I also believe everyone has a right to not just a house, but a home.

A table is more than a table, it is where you have your coffee on a Sunday morning. A nightstand is where you put your glasses instead of the floor. A bed is where you recharge and rest. In short, this furniture was more than 30 pallets of wood and screws, it was 100 homes.

This effort was so representative of our system. If we had unlimited resources, this whole thing would have been done in a day, but as with ending homelessness this is sadly not the case. We rely on the resourcefulness and tireless work of our providers and the kindness of our community.

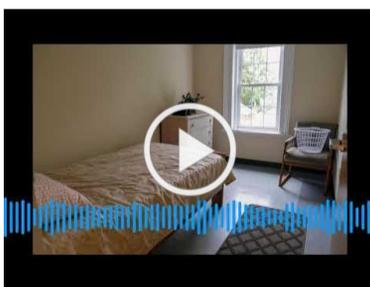
I opened the warehouse many times, and as I waited for volunteers to arrive, I couldn't help but think: "if no one shows, I'm going to have to just do this myself." I think this is the mentality of everyone in our system: "even if no one helps, I will just do it myself," but the reality is people do keep helping, and together we get the job done.

After the last piece of cardboard was stuffed in the back of my car, and I shut the lights off and locked the warehouse door for the last time, I couldn't help but be proud. Not necessarily of the personal labor, but of the volume of teamwork that made this a success. I am also proud to work with and for so many dedicated folks whose sole purpose is to get people housed, but more so, to make those houses into homes.

Yours,

Ryan Beach
Development and Marketing Coordinator, CCEH

Richard Talks with WNPR on How Our Coalition Moved People From Shelters and Into Hotel Rooms



On Monday Richard was interviewed by Lucy Nalpathanchil who is the host of the radio show Where We Live on WNPR. It was a perfect opportunity to highlight the enormous effort that went into moving people experiencing homelessness in a shelter setting and into hotel rooms to lower the spread of COVID-19. This is a two minute excerpt of that conversation, but we encourage you to listen to the entire broadcast which includes an interview with Columbus House CEO Margaret Middleton.

Please [click here](#) to listen to the complete interview.

Temporary Rent/Mortgage Assistance Programs from the Department of Housing

While the focus of CCEH's work is on assisting people who are currently homeless or on the verge of homelessness, we know that the COVID-19 public health emergency has resulted in housing-related hardships for many Connecticut renters and homeowners. We are pleased that the State of Connecticut is providing broader rent and mortgage relief for people impacted by COVID-19.

- [Temporary Rental Assistance Program](#)
- [Temporary Mortgage Assistance Program](#)

Please pass this information along to anyone who will benefit from this assistance.

Take Action: Homeless Funding is Urgent!



The current moment proves a critical turning point in homelessness, and funding from Congress can decide its outcomes. Upcoming COVID-19 relief bills will soon determine what money is allocated where, and it is vital that we let Congress know how important it is to fund homeless assistance in this dire time.

Please follow this [link](#) to complete a personalized letter to send to your representative. Thank you for joining us in the fight to end homelessness.

COVID-19 Testing Process on HMIS

As our coalition continues to work to protect people experiencing homelessness and the staff who serve them from COVID-19, it is vital to track the prevalence of COVID-19 among people in shelters. This slide shows the steps homeless services providers can take to both receive COVID-19 test result data and enter it into HMIS. If you have any questions please contact Linda Casey at lcasey@cceh.org

COVID-19 Testing Process

- **Steps for Testing Shelter Guests for COVID-19**

- 1** Ensure guest has a signed HMIS ROI and a signed ROI from the testing provider. Provide the testing provider with the HMIS ID and guest name (and other demographic data if required by the testing provider).
- 2** Request the testing provider return the results to the shelter operator as an Excel file and include the following: HMIS ID, Test Date, Test Results.
- 3** Upon receipt of test results, enter the data manually one client at a time via the COVID-19 menu option OR upload the Excel spreadsheet with HMIS ID, Test Date, Test Result (Positive/Negative) to our secure Dropbox link <https://ncom.egnyte.com/ui/jLLeo11zE4>

Revised 7/16/20 Questions? Contact Linda Casey at lcasey@cceh.org

Nationwide Town Hall on Ending Homelessness



On Wednesday the [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#) (NAEH) hosted a Nationwide Town Hall Meeting that provide resources and stories on the COVID-19 Response and Race Equity. It was also a good place for members of the homeless services community to gather, celebrate, and strengthen their work in the midst of the pandemic.

The event had an impressive list of guests including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Representative Maxine Waters, and a farewell address by Jon Bon Jovi. We thank the NAEH for creating this virtual space and allow us to express ourselves with our national partners.

HMIS Waiver Functionality

HMIS now offers the ability to record and track any waivers that have been used during the pandemic. This update includes:

- Added "waivers" menu under Case Management where you can view waivers on a per-client basis.
- Added Dashboards under THE LEFT menu > My Caseworthy > My Caseworthy menu item that displays the following:
 - Last 10 issued waivers for the organization. This is a clickable table that will provide a full list of waivers for your organization.
 - Number of expired waivers for your organization. This is a clickable link that will provide a list of expired waivers.
 - A direct link to the master list of waivers provided for your organization.
- Client Dashboard alerts for expired waivers.

For more detailed information please [click here](#).

We Are Looking for be homeful Ambassadors

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



Picture credit: Emma Vega

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.

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

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

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

[Components of an Effective Outreach System](#)

Friday, August 14, 2020
11:00 A.M. -12:00 P.M.

Previously Recorded Webinars

[Having a Harm Reduction Approach During a Pandemic \(Session 1\)](#)

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

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

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

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

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

CCEH in the News

[During Pandemic, Stable Housing Is More Critical Than Ever](#)

WNPR | July 2020



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

[Unsubscribe](#) {recipient's email}.

[Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@cceh.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!