

# 2015 Annual Report



Diane Paige'Blondet  
Executive Director & CEO



Rebecca Holshouser  
Board President

Dear Friends,

My Sisters' Place is pleased to share with you the highlights of our year. Your support allowed us to help over 1,000 individuals last year. Since opening our doors 34 years ago to address the issue of homelessness, MSP has grown tremendously. We currently operate 26 programs that continue to respond to the needs of families and individuals seeking our help.

With between 80 and 100 children living with us at Transitional Living and Sue Ann Shay Place Apartments, we had a year of learning and adjusting to appropriately provide support for that many children. While much of this manifests itself in our internal day to day operations, we are especially grateful to those who supported our back to school clothes, shoes and backpacks distribution, our Secret Santa program, group activities, and field trips.

Hartford Toyota generously donated a new Toyota Sienna to us. This 8 passenger minivan has been a tremendous help and put to very good use!

On June 14th, over 200 runners participated in the Second Annual MSP 5K at the University of Hartford. This event raised enough money to replace our playground equipment! We look forward to its future growth.

To all who contributed to MSP during 2015, we send our warmest thanks for the financial support, the in-kind giving, and the thousands of volunteer hours that help make MSP possible. The clients, staff, and board understand this every day. Your continued support enables My Sisters' Place to continue our mission of "Ending homelessness...Supporting Independence...Transforming lives."

Sincerely,

Diane Paige'Blondet  
Executive Director & CEO

Rebecca Holshouser  
President, Board of Directors



# MSP Programs

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The many programs offered by My Sisters' Place, Inc. have one common goal. It is to break the cycle of homelessness while offering those in our care options for permanent, safe and affordable housing. What begins with not having a safe home ends with a home of their own and self-sufficiency. From the time a woman, man, or family walks through the door, they are offered the opportunity to work with qualified staff to help with housing, counseling, education, and eventually independent living.

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## Transitional Housing

The transitional housing program is located in a renovated factory site on Pliny Street. There are 18 apartments on this site ranging from one to four bedrooms. Women and their children can stay in these apartments for up to two years. Services include life skills programs, education, empowerment and support groups. Case managers help families with referrals for employment, day care, financial assistance, and social services.



## Mary Townsend Seymour Apartments

There are 30 affordable apartments located on North Main and Capen Street in Hartford. These low-income, one-bedroom apartments for single women and men are available for residents who can hold their own lease. Voluntary case management and referral/advocacy services are available.

## Sue Ann Shay Place Apartments

The Sue Ann Shay Place Apartments are thirty-four affordable, one to three bedroom apartments available for women and men who head households. Tenants may take advantage of voluntary case management and referral/advocacy services. The building also includes space for after school programs, a computer lab and a community room.



## Housing Coordination Program

The program provides resources (rent subsidies, security deposits, loans) and assistance in negotiating the local housing market, training in tenants' rights and responsibilities, and acts as a liaison between landlords and tenants.

## Community Residential Program

An array of social services are provided to help women and men with psychiatric disabilities live independently. They hold their own leases in a variety of scattered site apartments.

## Goodwin College

MOVE (men of vision in education), Goodwin College, Department of Children and Families, and My Sisters' Place are working in collaboration to help young adults "aging out" of foster care. The program seeks to provide a foundation and structure for a successful college experience and future career.

# Incredible Courage

**These stories demonstrate the incredible courage and resolve possessed by the women in our transitional living program.**

Anna came to TLP with her eight month old baby after getting a divorce and losing her home to foreclosure. Her older children moved to Puerto Rico to be with their father, and she lost her job because she was unable to keep up her work schedule during her pregnancy. Anna and her caseworker developed a plan to put her once successful life back together. First on the agenda was to get the toddler into an appropriate day care situation. Second was to reunite the family. Her oldest daughter (16) returned from Puerto Rico and enrolled in a local high school. With her family back together and a stable school and daycare schedule in place, Anna was able to get a full time job. Unfortunately, the wages were not enough to allow for the savings necessary for starting over. Establishing independence for her children and herself was extremely important to Anna, so she got a second full time job to earn the funds necessary to establish her own household. Within a few months, Anna and her children were able to move into a apartment. They continue to do well.

**Takia, the oldest of six sisters, was thrown out of her home when she became pregnant at 16. At 23, Takia arrived at TLP, with three children, 6, 4 & 1. She was a domestic violence victim and had never lived in a household of her own or been able to provide one for her family. Takia's plan was based on establishing a foundation whereby she would be able to support her family. As a high school graduate in a single parent home, it was clear there needed to be a significant education component. One of our foundation funders provided tuition to The American Institute, where Takia was able to complete the course work for a Certified Nurse Assistant license. Along the way, Takia broke her ankle. It is with courage and perseverance that she was able to continue school and take care of her children. She is now doing her required extern work while working at Dunkin' Donuts to provide some income. We are confident Takia will join our other success stories.**

Mental health and domestic abuse issues lead to Rose, 34, becoming homeless and losing her five children to the foster care system. She made her way to My Sisters' Place's Transitional Living Program. This intensive program guides women in rebuilding their lives and those of their children. Rose took to the program immediately with the goal of reuniting with her children and becoming independent. With this in mind, Rose was placed in a four bedroom apartment so she and her family would have stability should the reunification take place. After several months of hard work with DCF and MSP's caseworkers, two sons, 6 and 8, were reunited with Rose. The family is doing well and successfully adjusting to living together. A plan is in place to continue the reunification over the next several months. Our caseworkers and the youth coordinator will work with the family to assist in creating an independent and stable environment for the entire family.

**While living at home, Cindy, 23, became pregnant. This set off a series of events which led to homelessness and her daughter being born in a shelter. Several weeks later, Cindy began the Transitional Living Program. She worked the program very hard. She obtained part-time employment at Taco Bell, enrolled in Goodwin College's Health Careers Program and was accepted into St. Francis Hospital's internship program, and Cindy is now on her way to independence. Transitional Living is about obtaining the skills for an independent life. Our caseworkers will continue to guide Cindy's progress, while those in our For Love of Children program will work to ensure the infant has a solid foundation to develop school readiness skills.**

# What happens when the Insurance Company says, “You can no longer use the playground?”

Late in the fall during a routine site survey, our insurance company found the 20+ year old wooden playscape to be a hazard. We had known for a while that its end was near, but we kept painting and repairing as best we could. The expense of a new playscape was not something we could easily face in these difficult fund raising times. The playground was chained and padlocked.

With the dawning of spring, the playground remained locked. With 80 to 100 kids living with us, this presented a problem as the parking lot consistently served as the play area. In 2014, a group of board members organized the first, My Sisters’ Place 5K. It was moderately successful, netting slightly over \$5,000. This dedicated group decided they would raise \$35,000 with the 2015 5K. Quite frankly, this was met with great skepticism.

In the meantime, we dismantled and removed the offending playscape. This left an empty play area. During a May volunteer event, PricewaterhouseCoopers volunteers weeded and generally cleaned up the area. They then assembled a series of smaller play items and houses. This done, the kids had a safe play area, albeit a little bare.

Back to the 5K, an energized board group worked their networks for donations and sold sponsorships raising over \$40,000. On June 14<sup>th</sup>, nearly 300 runners, family members and volunteers gathered on the UHART campus for the race. It was a great a glorious weather day and the net was enough to purchase and install the playground.



# For the Love of Children Initiative

**For the Love of Children Initiative**, *our children's program, grew out of a keen awareness of the special problems facing homeless children. We have chosen to focus time, attention and resources on the children, since we know homelessness can be perpetuated, generation after generation. We recognize that much more than recreational activities are needed to help the children build skills, form positive attitudes and create possibilities for their futures.*

## **The Special Needs of Homeless Children**

There are many ways that homelessness hurts children. Poverty alone presents many problems and deprivations for children. Poor families are the most severely impacted by the lack of affordable housing in Connecticut. Rental costs continue to put housing out of reach for many of Hartford's low income population.

In FY2015 we served 94 individuals in the Transitional Living Program at Pliny Street, an increase of 4.4%. We have 34 family apartments at Sue Ann Shay Place, which is able to house up to 68 adults and 85 children simultaneously. Previously homeless families tend to be larger and have more critical needs. Typically, families who come to My Sisters' Place for help are headed by young mothers.

As a result of moving around from one housing situation to another, neither adults nor children receive the emotional support, guidance or treatment that they need to address their problems. In shelters, they share everything with other families. They have little privacy and no personal cooking area. They eat whatever food is prepared for everyone at the shelter; they use common bathroom facilities, and sleep in someone else's bed. It is not uncommon for their property to be stolen. Nothing belongs to them. They have no stability since there are limits to how long they can stay. Children may have to change schools frequently, especially if they move from shelter to shelter or from relative to relative. Finding their next place to live is a constant worry.

Every day at MSP we see previously homeless children who have physical illnesses, developmental delays, and poor communication and socialization skills. Many are struggling in school, have low self-esteem and an inability to trust others. These children are scared, frustrated and confused when they arrive. Many of them have experienced emotional, physical or sexual abuse. Enduring the trauma of being separated from their family members and friends, these children have had to deal with the fear of not knowing where they are going to sleep each night, which compounds their emotional turmoil.

The calmer and more secure atmosphere that MSP provides is the optimum setting for stabilizing children. Instead of worrying about where to live, parents can nurture their families and develop the skills to rebuild their lives and become independent. At MSP, the children feel safe and secure and can focus on something other than their living situations. Once family routines become stabilized, school attendance improves, leading to better grades, education and security for all.

# 2015 MSP 5K



# 2015 Highlights & Special Events

Over 1,000 specific Christmas gifts were solicited, donated, and distributed to My Sisters' Place clients. Donors included: Aetna, The Armstrong Family, GE, Healthtrax, Church of the Incarnation, IRS, Marshall's, PricewaterhouseCoopers, R. Dudley Seymour School, The Hartford, Travelers, UBS, United Healthcare, United Technologies, VA, and MacDermid, Reynolds & Glissman, P.C.

MSP was chosen as a NU Hartford Marathon official charity. The event will take place October 10, 2015.

The second annual MSP 5K Road Race sponsored by Hartford Toyota Superstore was held on June 14, 2015 at the University of Hartford.

Coldwell Banker hosted a Golf Tournament on September 9, 2015 to benefit My Sisters' Place.

Hartford Toyota donated a new Toyota Sienna van to My Sisters' Place.

Many groups volunteered for a day of service with us this year, including:

- Cronin and Company
- General Electric Company
- Heads up Hartford
- Plus Hartford
- PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Symetra
- The Hartford
- United Healthcare
- United Technologies
- University of Hartford

Halloween:

- Cigna
- Marshalls
- Kingswood Oxford School
- Junior League of Hartford

Back to School Supplies

- Marshalls
- SBM Charitable Foundation
- The Hartford
- United Healthcare

4 children's events with UTC  
Women's forum

Women's Health Screenings:

- St. Francis
- The Hartford

Thanksgiving Dinners:

- GE Industrial Solutions
- Gabels Basket Brigade





# MSP's Soiree



# Opportunities for Giving

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My Sisters' Place receives funding from various foundations, corporations, state and government sources. However, the organization could not continue its valuable work without the support of private donations. There are many ways to give, and the following list provides information about the various kinds of support.

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## **ANNUAL GIVING**

Unrestricted gifts allow the organization to enhance its programs and supplement its operating budget, which is subject to cuts from federal and state funding sources. This vital source of support allows My Sisters' Place to continue its mission. There are many ways to give throughout the year:

**ANNUAL APPEAL** - Please send in your support at the end of the year when asked by our Development Director, Executive Director and Board of Directors.

**MONTHLY GIVING** - Would you like your gift to be spread out during the year? You can send in a check or authorize a fixed amount to be deducted from your credit card with an acknowledgment and total for the year mailed out at the end of December. This manner of giving works well for those who would like to make a significant gift to the organization, but cannot do it all at once.

**CREDIT CARD** - You may give a gift using either VISA, American Express, Mastercard, or Discover. Acknowledgements and confirmations will be sent to you in the mail.

**MATCHING GIFTS** - Does your company offer a matching gifts program? You can often double the size of your donation by using this program. Please enclose the form from your employer with your gift and we will do the rest.

**IN HONOR OF** - Donations are made to the organization in honor of individuals or groups. Acknowledgments are sent to the people being honored.

**IN MEMORY OF** - Donations are made to the organization in memory of a loved one. Acknowledgements are sent to the family members or others as requested by the donor.

# Opportunities for Giving, continued

## **BENEFITS AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

Please join us for one of our special events offered during the year. This is a wonderful time to meet other supporters of the organization, and get to know the staff of My Sisters' Place.

## **PLANNED GIVING**

Planned giving offer donors a way to receive a tax benefit from a gift or bequest that will help us with our programs and mission for years to come. Please consult your attorney or accountant about this kind of giving that, while helping us, will also provide benefits to you and your estate.

## **GIFTS-IN-KIND**

Donations are important to the organization. Cleaning supplies, household items and toiletries help the women with their immediate needs. At Christmas, gifts are provided for residents and their children. My Sisters' Place is grateful for this continual kindness. **We ask that you call our Donations Coordinator at 860-549-1634 for more information BEFORE bringing any items.**

## **VOLUNTEER**

Volunteer your time to help with special events, or offer to host a benefit. We also need volunteers for office work, childcare, tutoring and mentoring programs. To obtain more information on any of these opportunities, please call the Development Office at 860-895-6629.



# Gifts to My Sisters' Place

## Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 — June 30, 2015

### Individual Donors

#### Platinum Level \$5,000 to \$9,999

Edward & Mary Budd  
Virginia Brody  
Kevin & Katherine Conway  
Renata & Gregory Hayes  
Francis & Nancy Hursey

#### Gold Level \$2,500 to \$4,999

Vincent Dowling  
Donna & Michael Downes  
Sandra Bender Fromson  
Gerard Jacques  
Lila Khadar  
Martha & Thomas Leonard  
Francis & Sally Morrison  
Michael & Margaret Myers

#### Silver Level \$1,500 to \$2,499

Gary Carter  
Gillian Howell  
Robert & Elizabeth Inglis  
Barbara J. McNeil  
Kurt Roggendorf / Adrien Brown

#### Bronze Level \$1,000 to \$1,499

Gail & Doug Anderson  
Marla Bell-Lovett  
David & Karen Condren  
Calvin & Carol Cooper  
Thomas & Twila Daniels  
Charlie Delaney  
Nancy Fightlin  
Elizabeth Gagne  
David & Janice Newton  
Virgilio & Diane Paige/Blondet  
Michael & Genevieve Pfaff  
Laura Post  
June Miller Rosenblatt  
Kathleen Slack  
Ivana Spacek  
Kathy & Ed Viani  
Caroline Wilke

#### \$500 to \$999

Carol Albanese  
Mitsey Baker  
Lynn Bishel  
Joanne Budnick  
Kenton Childs  
James & Laura Cubanski  
Lesbia Gelbach  
Scott & Kathleen Gill  
Suzanne & Wayne Giuffrida  
Emily Induddi  
Elizabeth Judd  
Charles Koteen

Luvonney Lamar  
Lewis Lassow  
Karen Matheson  
Thomas & Joy McConnell  
Mario Patrella, Jr.  
James H. Rankin  
Wayne Rawlins  
Luis Rivera  
James & Rebecca Shinkoff  
Joan Shoham  
Marilyn Steinmetz  
Maynard & Elizabeth Stowe  
Anthony & Pam Torsiello  
Myron & Ruth Weiner  
Wendy Young

#### \$250 to \$499

Cheryl Arcidiacono  
David & Dianne Barnes  
Dennis & Deborah Barone  
Kathleen Bromage  
Roger & Judith Bunker  
Mark Cohen  
Monique Collins-Mashkovich  
Linda Crookshanks  
Ronald & Lorraine Daigle  
Patrick Egan  
Steve & Martha Erickson  
Jeffrey Fisher  
Lenny & Alex Fredericks  
Mirella Giambalvo  
Dennis & Linda Gianoli  
Colleen Hannon  
Lynne & Harold Hawkins  
B. Theodore & Sheila Jacobs  
Ms. Carolyn Joy  
Carolyn Joy  
Tina Kane  
Carol King  
Eileen Kraus  
Alan Kreczko  
Elke Kulas  
Bruce & Lois Lapp  
Andrew & Christine Lozyniak  
Muriel Makharine  
Stephen Matheson  
Justin Matley  
Nancy & Hugh Murray  
Cindy Muzyka  
Gail Newton  
Stephen Nightingale  
David & Elaine Nord  
Claire & Gary Olsen  
Rebecca Paolino  
Paula & Michael Passaretti  
Kathleen & Paul Querfeld  
Michael & Elaine Richardson  
Karen Riem

Margaret Riley  
Raymond & Diana Roy  
Sara & Douglas Russell  
Paul Sellier  
Jeffrey & Susan Shapiro  
Mary Simon  
Christopher & Lisa Skomorowski  
Edward Skopas  
Daniel Sullivan  
Frank & Patricia Teterus  
Paul & Beverly Truebig  
Jane VonHolzhausen  
Laurie Wasserstein  
Judith Weingarden

#### \$100 to \$249

Robert & Liza Adamenko  
Edward Andrews  
Mary Augeri  
Robert Bailey  
Robert & Martha Baumann  
Stacie Berdan  
Brenda Bergeron  
Dominick & Anna Bonanno  
Donna Bovee  
Catherine Boyes  
Marcia Brown  
Kathleen Campbell  
Arnold & Sylvia Cantor  
Sam & Elizabeth Ann Capparelli  
Julie Carter  
Carla Centeio  
Susan Chatfield  
Richard Chen  
Joseph & Daria Clark  
Dr. Diane Cloud  
Claudia Coplein  
Brian Coroso  
Ms. Katharine Creedon  
Rev. Marjorie H. Davis  
Chrissie & John D'Esopo  
Ruth Dunn  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Edelson  
Santina Ferri  
Sarah Fisher-Kerbis  
Mary Fleischli  
Elizabeth Freedman  
Allan & Carole Fromm  
Deborah M. Gaffney  
Marilda Gandara  
Missy Godfrey  
Robert & Leanore Goode, Jr.  
John S. Gordon  
Cheryl Greenberg  
Arthur & Zabelle Krasow  
Greenblatt  
Ellen & Stephen Guest  
Alicia Haffner

Susan Forbes Hansen  
Melinda Harmon  
Jeanne Harris  
Patricia Henin  
Paul & Mary Ann Henzler  
Alice Hermann  
Jodie & Christopher Herrmann  
Luis Hilerio  
Donald & Maureen Himes  
Leslie & David Horst  
Ms. Cynthia Huge  
Keith Inrig  
Ms. Sarah Ivins  
Mindy Jason  
Andrea Johnston  
Michael & Pamela Joyce  
Frederic Kaeser  
David Klein  
Richard Krechevsky  
Dorinda & Michael Kuziak  
Glen & Gail Kvadus  
Ms. Mary C. Labelle  
Linda Lanton  
Laura Larese-Therrien  
Gerald & Jean Ledger  
Peter & Paula Leibovitz  
Marc & Tammy Levine  
Susan Mackiewicz  
MacRae Family  
Elizabeth Maerz  
Anne & Jeffrey Magnavita  
Martha Marin  
Ellyn & Douglas Marshall  
John & Carol Maschi  
Alfred Matheson  
Rosemary Matheson  
Joseph Mayo, Jr.  
Michael & Nancy Maznio  
Eileen McAndrews  
Carol A. McCue  
John McDonough  
James & Deborah McIntosh  
Jennifer Miglus  
Nancy Molka  
Joel Murphy  
Mary & James Nason  
John & Deanna Nasto  
Sara Norris  
KC O'Brien  
Gina & Stephen O'Connell  
Susan Ozmum  
Keith & Ann Palmer  
David & Laura Pels  
Dorothy & Justin Perugini  
Leonard Perugini  
Christopher & Mary Phelan  
Helen Marie Phelan  
Michael & Joanne Pierce

# Gifts to My Sisters' Place

## Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Willard Pinney	Nancy Anderson	Rachel DeCavage	Norman & Joan Grody
Jessica Pompei	Mary Jo Andrews	Atla DeChamplain	Sherrilynn Guffey
Wendy & Howard Posner	Ray & Barbara Andrews	Janice & William Dedominicis	Rosemary Gunning
Helena Reilly	Coleen & Victor Antico	Anne Demas	Sarah Gurney
Anne Reilly	David & Mary Armando	Jocelyn Denalsky	Nancy Habbal
Martha Rhine	Johanna S. Audolensky	Philip & Mary Alice Dennehy Jr.	Lorraine Halibozek
Jim Rinehart	Hope Auerbach	Barbara M. Dennis	Anne M. Hamilton
Lisa Roche	Jo-Anne Bacciolo	Angelo Dimatteo	Astrid T. Hanzalek
Christina Rosenzweig	Ivan Backer	Michelle Distefano	Jerry & Patricia Hardison
Joel & Susan Rottner	Lisa Bahre	Janae Donady	Robert Harris
Melissa Roy	Brenda Bakmazian	John Donley	Dr. Sheldon & Christie Hausman
Barbara Rubin	Mr. & Mrs. Sherry Banks-Cohn	Joseph & Berta Donovan	Joan Height
Linnie Russell	Nettie Bauman	Mary & Peter Dorpalen	Manda Heltke
James & Barbara Ryan	Lindsay Bealor	Norman & Ellen Douglass	Jan Helyer
Alese Scales	Karen Beirele	Jennifer Downing	Mary Hennessey
Carol Schmidt	JohnPaul Bellott	Barbara Doyle	Kamalah Hill
Lois & Stephen Schneeberger	Phillip & Ellen Blumberg	Ed & Carol Duffy	Rachel Hoff
Jeanne & Jeffrey Schroeder	Pam & James Bombara	Ms. Susan Dukeley	Jason & Suzanne Hogsed
Jay Sher	Charles Botts	Robert Dunbar	Marsha Hogue
Debra Simon-Thomas	Bessie Bowles	Rebecca Eldridge	Chris Holshouser
John & Valerie Siraco	Shawn Boyle	Debbie-Ann Ellington	Laura Holt
Patty Sisti	Joan Brajczewski	Pamela & Robert Elliott	Jill Homan
Christopher Slack	Eileen Brewer-Akin	Dean & Anne Erickson	Judith Houpert
Dorothy Smith	Alexander & Stacy Britnell	Nancy Erman	Derek Howell
Carolyn Spaulding	Isobel Broadhurst	Margo Eugene	Ruth S. Howell
Alan & Roz Spier	Ms. Donna Burgess	Diana & James Evans, Jr.	Marion Hultin
Fred & Sue Steinhagen	Kyla Burke	Arielle Fair	Donna Hunter
Robert & Cynthia Stira	Peter Burkholder	Elise Falkin	Lorie Hunt-Stacy
Kevin Sullivan	Daniel Burnett	Joyce Fallon	Jacqueline Isaacson
J Mark Sutton	Robert & Barbara Burrill	Valerio Family	Mary Johnson
Mark Taub	Monica & John Butler	Curtis Farr	Paula Johnston
Renee Tehi	Nichole Camerato	Leonard Felson	Julie Kamis
Samuel & Joan Teller	Claire Carney	Carol Fine	Edward & Catherine Kane
Patricia Ann Theurkauf	Anthony Carreras	Edward & Margaret Flanagan	Hillary Keller
Eric & Julie Thompson	Ms. Betty M. Caruso	Joy Marie Floyd	M.C. Kelliher
Margaret Traber	Jessica Celella	Elizabeth Fontaine	Daniel Kelly
Jay Valigorsky	Francis & Dorothy Charest	Ms. John & Anna Forlenza-Bailey	Brian & Christine Kennedy
Eugene & Elizabeth Viani	Sandra Chase	Diane M. Fountain	Caridad Kessler
Vincent Villano	Jill Clark	Kim Francis	Sharon Kleinhen
Audrey & Robert Volpe	Beverly Cleaveland	Lisa Frucci	Susan Kline
Catherine J. Wade	Linda Cohan	Judith Gaffney	John & Monica Knapp
David & Marcia Waitzman	Erin Concepcion	Janet Gallugi	Judith Kochman
Ann Wambolt	Chris & Laura Conlon	Leanne Garofolo	Wendy Kozlow
Michael Wasta	Theresa Conneely	Denis Geary	Kate Krotzer
Maureen Waterston	Kevin & Marjorie Conway	Bill & Lisa Gemmer	Ms. Alma Kruh
Mark & Barbara Wetzel	Christina Cooper	Katie Gervais	Mark & Elizabeth Kucharski
David & Cynthia Whitehouse	Susan Correia	Susan Gilmore	Joanna Kurek
Margaret Williams	Ms. Joann Crino	Lee & Cynthia Goldman	Cathy LaBombard
C. Steven & Virginia Wolf	Sue Crowther	Mark & Sherry Gosselin	James Lagassie
Elliot & Doreen Zweig	Ellen Curry	Elizabeth Gower	Carl Lajeunesse
	E. Michelle Daley	Katherine Grabowski-Clark	Irene Lamont
<b>\$99 and under</b>	Lucie Daly	Michael & Sheila Graziosi	Dianne Langhans
Ms. Veronica Airey-Wilson	Danielle Dampf	Michael Grazioso	Rit LaPorte
Jennifer & Ryan Albanesi	Barbara Dangelo	Derek Green	Marvin & Sara Lapuk
Lauren Albert	Diana C. D'Angelo	Michael & Eileen Griffin	John & Sue Larsen
Alan & Margaret Aleia	Thomas Daugherty	Nuala Griffin	Scott & Ruth Lawlor
Anne & David Allen	Lori Davison	Richard Griffin	Dylan Lee
Sebastian & Brigida Ambrogio		Sylvia Griffin	Ms. Leslie Leone

# Gifts to My Sisters' Place

## Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Holly Lerose  
Jacqueline Lewis  
Taylor Libby  
Brenda Lind  
Angela Loprete  
Costas & Athena Loukellis  
Walter & Phyllis Lowell  
Vernon Lunt  
Daniel & Kathryn Macone  
Laura Magnotta  
Henry & Maria Mahier  
Shelly Majidy  
Thomas & Bernadette Malloy  
Irwin Mandel  
Joseph Marcoux  
Gloria Marino  
Melissa Martin  
Dorothy M. Mason  
Roberta & Nunzio Mastromarino  
Corey Matfess  
Sarah Mazzaresse  
Beth McCabe  
Rebecca McCloskey  
Wendy & Michael McCormick  
Margaret McCrudden  
Mary McGreevy  
Maryann McGuire  
Thomas McHugh  
Mary McKeever  
Karen McLaughlin  
Mary & Robert McNamee  
Andy & Fran Meade  
Casey Miranda  
Emily Messino  
Cecilia Mickey  
Eleanor Miller  
Sandra Miller  
Elizabeth Miller  
Robert M. Mittica  
Sheila P. Mocarisky  
Christina Mohr  
Kimberly Moore  
Mary Moriarty  
Emily Moskites  
Timothy & Rosemary Moynihan  
Nicole Murphy  
Maureen Mussel  
Ms. Denise Nalette  
Merri Nathan  
Lisa Neary  
Richard Nicholson  
Daniel & Myra Niver  
Catherine Nix  
Roy & Nancy Normen  
Andrea Nygren  
Ellen & William O'Connor  
Margaret Olsen  
Benjamin Oprysko

Richard & Denise Order  
Debra O'Reilly  
Mary Orfanello  
Bob & Pauline Ouellette  
Nicolina Pallone  
Barbara Palombizio  
Susan & Alan Paperny  
Donna Papetti  
M Bruce & Faith Parker  
Donald Pascale  
Walt Pastet  
Robert & Joanne Peltier  
Edward & Mary Pergiovanni  
Bonnie Peterson  
Austin Peterson  
Lorraine Petricone  
Danielle Pezzenti  
Mary Agnes Phelan  
Sue Phillips  
Jonathan Pizzo  
Deborah Polivy  
Sara Posner  
Claudette Powell  
Elizabeth Pratt  
Eleanor Prouty  
Lee Puryear  
Kelly Puttin  
John Rachinsky  
Stephen Radau  
David & Janet Radomski  
Sarah Raskin  
Ms. Krista Rathbun  
Alan & Patricia Raynard  
Brian & Eileen Reilly  
Michael Reilly  
Sharon Rizikow  
Ms. Elaine Roberts  
David Roberts  
Edward Roberts  
Kimberly Robertson  
Denise & Ronald Robillard  
Keryl Robinson  
Mrs. Suzanne Robinson  
William & Carolyn Rock  
Rosemary Rogers  
Caroline Rohrbach  
Charles & Jeanne Roode  
Mr & Mrs. Elizabeth Rosania  
Melissa Rosenthal-Somosky  
Jennifer C Rowland  
Bryan & Colleen Runyon  
Kathleen Rusch  
John & Theresa Ryan  
Christie Sanders  
Patricia Schatz  
Paul & Cherie Schwartz  
Linda Schwartz  
Melissa Scully

Virginia Seeley  
Deanna Sena  
Lizia Sequenzia  
Sujal Shah  
David Shaw  
Taylor Shea  
Alan & Ann Sherman  
Robert & Lisa Shettle  
Deb Shulansky  
Leah Sicuro  
Patricia Silvey  
Don Singer  
Eugene & Dolores  
Skladnowski  
David & Barbara Smith  
Lynne Smith  
Howard & Elaine Smith  
Stuart Sobeleski  
H. Dyke N. Spear  
Jerome Spears  
Richard Stabert  
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Maria Imelda Suit  
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Alexis Taylor  
Bruce Terrill  
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Jenelle Townsend  
Susan Tracey  
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Bryan & Lisa Tuxbury  
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Farrel & Lorraine Vogelhut  
Shauna Walker  
Clint Walker  
Tasha Walker  
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Lois Woy  
Peter & Gloria Wu  
Aleksandra Yanovich  
Irene Young  
Anthony Zacharski  
Despina Zoef

### **In-Kind Donations:**

Scott & Amanda Aronson  
Julie Bauman  
Leigh Bayreuther  
Beth Bean  
Stephanie Higgins Bealing  
Marla Bell-Lovett  
Marlo Bell-Lovett, Sr.  
Sarah Megan Berthold  
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Robert Francis  
Jerry Franklin  
Linda Gabianelli  
Eleanor B. Garber  
Ilana Garber  
Lisa Garvin

# Gifts to My Sisters' Place

## Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Sandy Gionfriddo  
 Dan Hebert  
 Dorell Henderson  
 Jason & Suzanne Hogsed  
 Suzanne Hopgood  
 Gillian Howell  
 Harriet Hyland  
 Alfieri Iannucci  
 Emily Induddi  
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 Beth Juliano  
 Adina Weiner Kennedy  
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 Ali Leibowitz  
 Brian Linda  
 Cindy Lindenberger  
 Shelly Majidy  
 Filomena Martin  
 Kristen Martin  
 Nancy Martin  
 Alma Mattice  
 Elizabeth Maurer  
 Ashley Mayo  
 Vernyce McDonald  
 Chris McKenna  
 Barbara J. McNeil  
 Amy Messinger  
 Jillian Murphy  
 Nancy Murphy  
 Michael & Margaret Myers  
 Anna Nelson  
 Barbara Niziolek  
 Bill Nollman  
 Danny & Brandi O'Brien  
 Ricarda Ortiz  
 Darlene Pagani  
 Phyllis Palmer  
 Rebecca Paolino  
 Maryellen Parker  
 LaTasha Phinn  
 Ashley Phinney  
 Jessica Pineros  
 Melissa Cruz Rainey  
 Cristal Liz Reyes  
 Eather Reynolds  
 Nannie Mae Robinson  
 Erin Roche  
 Marguerite Rose  
 Susan Rosenthal  
 Paul Rumore

Kurlene Sampson  
 Toni Sefter  
 Wanda N Seldon  
 Irma Sermon  
 Nigel Shinn  
 Sandy Sholovitz  
 David & Rita Sobel  
 Sally Stamos  
 Edward Strong, Jr.  
 Jean Sturgeon  
 Sarah Tolisano  
 Jenny Trinh  
 Don Tuller  
 Richard Twilley  
 Rich Veilleux  
 Jonathan Weiner  
 Myron & Ruth Weiner  
 Michael & Maxine Weinstein  
 Cathy & Jill Williams  
 Hazel Williams  
 Amy Wininger  
 Sara Woodward  
 Elliot & Doreen Zweig

### Corporate and Foundation Support:

#### **\$250,000+**

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

#### **\$50,000 to \$99,999**

The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc.

#### **\$10,000 to \$49,999**

Charles Nelson Robinson Foundation  
 Coldwell Banker Residential Broker  
 Farmington Bank Community Foundation, Inc.  
 Hartford Toyota Superstore  
 J. Walton Bissell Foundation, Inc  
 Melville Charitable Trust  
 SBM Charitable Foundation  
 The Fund for Greater Hartford  
 The Sandra and Arnold Chase Family Foundation  
 Travelers  
 Travelers Employee Giving Campaign / CyberGrants  
 United Way of Central & Northeastern CT

#### **\$5,000 to \$9,999**

Aetna Foundation - Employee Giving Campaign  
 Asylum Hill Congregational Church  
 Hoffman Auto Group  
 KPMG LLP  
 People's United Community Foundation  
 The Benevity Community Impact Fund  
 The Cheryl Chase and Stuart Bear Family Foundation  
 The Rhoda and David Chase Family Foundation  
 The TJX Foundation  
 Trumbull Family Foundation  
 United HealthCare Services, Inc.

United Technologies  
 UTC Women's Forum

#### **\$1,000 to \$4,999**

Ahold Financial Services  
 Bank of America  
 Bank of America Charitable Foundation  
 Bank of America Employee Giving  
 CLSJ Foundation Inc.  
 Connecticut Automotive Retailers  
 Association  
 Connecticut Bar Association  
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 eBenefits Group of Unionville, Inc  
 EMC  
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 Voya Foundation  
 Wireless Zone Foundation for Giving, Inc.  
 XL Specialty Insurance Company

#### **\$500 and under**

3M  
 A Strand A Head  
 All Saints' Episcopal Church  
 Allstate Giving Campaign  
 American Institute of Consumer Studies  
 Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.  
 AT&T Employee Giving Campaign  
 AvaGrace & Co LLC  
 Bradley, Foster & Sargent, Inc.  
 Brooklyn Garden Club

# Gifts to My Sisters' Place

## Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Callahan Appraisal Services  
 Changing Directions  
 Charter Oak Temple Restoration Association  
 ChiroWorks  
 Cigna  
 Cohn Reznick  
 Congregation Beth Israel  
 CTCPA  
 Dave's Handyman Services  
 Dechert LLC  
 Donatic  
 DSB Ventures LLC  
 Edwards Wildman Palmer LLP  
 Eyeworks of Farmington, LLC  
 Faith Congregational Church  
 First Baptist Church of West Hartford  
 First Congregational Church in Canton  
 First Congregational Church of Granby  
 Flagg Road United Church of Christ Congr.  
 GE United Way Campaign  
 Hartford Parking Authority  
 Home for the Holidays  
 Hoysala Kannada Koota, CT  
 HTS Construction  
 InterCommunity, Inc  
 International League of Muslim Women, Inc.  
 IRS  
 KRA Corporation  
 Leadership & Philanthropy Institute  
 Mass Mutual  
 Meetings by Design  
 Middlesex United Way  
 Moms Club of East Hampton  
 My Tribute Gift Foundation, Inc.  
 Nathan Accounting Group  
 Network for Good  
 Novel Tees Screen Printing  
 Olde Town Coin Company, Inc.  
 Pistritto Marble Imports Inc.  
 R. Dudley Seymour School  
 Renaissance Charitable Foundation, Inc  
 Salvin Shoes, Inc.  
 Schneider Electric/Square D Foundation  
 Seva CT Chapter VHP of America  
 Smokin' With Chris  
 Sound of New England Chorus Inc.  
 Squadron Line School  
 St. George Episcopal Church  
 St. James's Episcopal Church  
 St. Mark Lutheran Church  
 Stanley Black & Decker, Inc  
 Ten Thousand Villages  
 The Griffis Foundation  
 The Solomon & Katie Wohl Foundation  
 The Whittemore Foundation  
 Tint Master Solar Control System, LLC  
 Transformed Health and Fitness International  
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 United Healthcare

United Methodist Church of Hartford  
 United Way of Massachusetts Bay and  
 Merrimack Valley  
 United Way of West Central Connecticut  
 UW of Greater Philadelphia and SNJ  
 UW of Pioneer Valley  
 Wapping Community Church

### **In Kind Donations:**

Aetna  
 American Association of Women Dentists  
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 Big Y Foods, Inc.  
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 Charities of Hope  
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 Connecticut Children's Medical Center  
 Conning  
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 Excelsior Lodge #3  
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 General Electric Company  
 Global Communications Academy  
 Griffin Land  
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 Hartford Healthcare  
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 United Healthcare  
 University of Hartford  
 University of Saint Joseph  
 Urban League  
 Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America  
 Walgreens Infusion Services  
 West Hartford Senior Center, Knitters Club  
 Westminster School  
 Whole Foods Market





### *My Sisters' Place*

**Diane Paige'Blondet**  
Executive Director & CEO  
dpaige-blondet@sistersplacect.org

**Kathleen Shaw**  
VP of Programs & Operations  
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**Robert Dunbar**  
VP of Development  
rdunbar@sistersplacect.org

**Rosemary Flowers**  
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**Vernette Tyson**  
Assistant Program Director  
Housing Coordination  
vtyson@sistersplacect.org

**Patricia Camp**  
Grants Writer  
pcamp@sistersplacect.org

### *Board of Directors*

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### *Administrative Offices*

237 Hamilton Street  
Suite 203  
Hartford, CT 06106  
Phone: (860) 895-6629  
Fax: (860) 493-1330

**Transitional Living Program and  
Supported Recovery**  
102 Pliny Street  
Hartford, CT 06120  
Phone: (860) 549-1634  
Fax: (860) 549-5766

**Mary Seymour Place Apartments  
Supportive Housing**  
2197 Main Street  
Hartford, CT 06120  
Phone: (860) 246-2803  
Fax: (860) 240-7673

**Sue Ann Shay Place Apartments  
Supportive Housing**  
76 Pliny Street  
Hartford, CT 06120  
Phone: (860) 724-3143  
Fax: (860) 724-3153

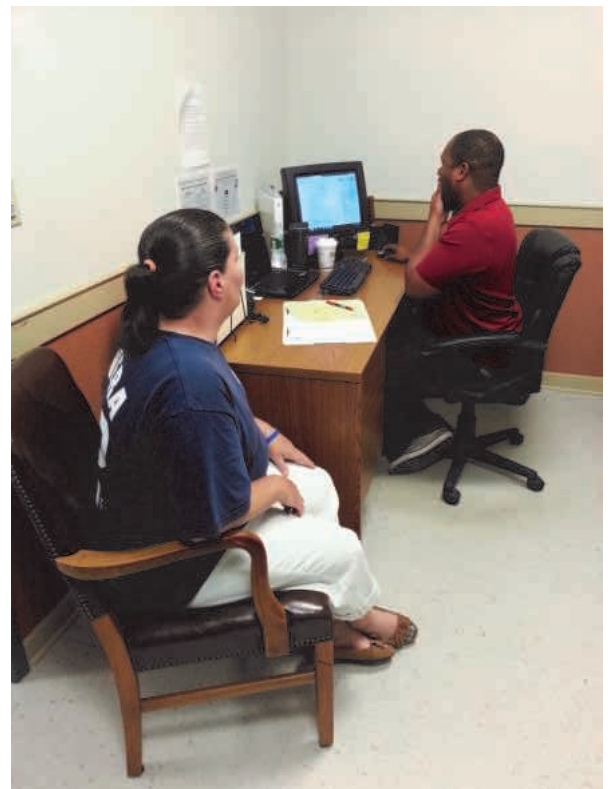
*Thank  
You*

## MSP Employment Program

The Yellow Brick Road provides a road to financial independence, which leads to the end of homelessness. Our residents bring into the program with them long-standing habits which foster homelessness. They often lack the education and/or skills needed to obtain work which pays enough to maintain themselves and their families, given the high cost of living in Hartford.

Although some of our residents have held jobs, many have spotty employment records, little or no work ethic, interactions with the criminal justice system, and a history of minimum wage jobs. Many have worked under the table, which does not provide job security or opportunities for job advancement. Others have credit issues which interfere with finding employment.

MSP provides opportunities for additional education including obtaining a high school diploma or GED, vocational education referrals, and offers a program in conjunction with local community colleges and Goodwin College for vocational training and certification. We also work with the Urban League of Greater Hartford to provide workforce readiness training and support services for up to 30 residents. We have found that in addition to a basic high school education/GED, formerly homeless people often need to learn soft skills which enable them to retain employment. Although many residents have dreams of stable employment and job/financial success, they often have a work history of short-term, low-wage jobs. They are not work ready, and that is where MSP steps in. Residents who wish to participate in the workforce development program take part in an initial assessment which includes knowledge and aptitude testing, work readiness assessment and a career interest inventory. MSP case workers assist residents with development of a life plan, which includes educational and employment objectives.



# Want to Help?

## VOLUNTEER

Please check the box(es) below that may be of interest to you.

- Mentor a Child       Childcare       Maintenance (*handy work*)       Collect In-Kind Donations       Assist with Events  
 Host a Donations Drive       Administrative Support       Assist with Sorting Donated Items       Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Provide:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street

City, ST, Zip

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Mail to: 102 Pliny Street, Hartford, CT 06120*

## DONATED GOODS

Although we rely on donated items to help support those in our care, we have extremely limited space. If you are interested in **donating items listed below**, please call our **Donations Coordinator at (860) 549-1634**. We ask that you please call before dropping off any items.

- |                    |              |                         |                         |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| -Cleaning products | -Paper Goods | -Garbage Bags           | -Baby diapers and wipes |
| -Pots and pans     | -Dishes      | -Sheets (twin and full) | -Comforters (twin size) |
| -Pillows (new)     | -Gift cards  | -Clorox wipes           |                         |

## MAKING A MONETARY DONATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Mary Townsend Seymour Leadership Society

Diamond (\$10,000 or more)

Platinum (\$5,000-9,999)

Gold (\$2,500-\$4,999)

Silver (\$1,500-\$2,499)

Bronze (\$1,000-\$1,499)

### Friends of My Sisters' Place

\$500-\$999

\$250-499

\$1-\$249

Please accept this gift in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Confirm amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please list my/our names as follows in the annual report: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Options:

Check enclosed (made out to My Sisters' Place, Inc.)

Visa

Mastercard/Discover

American Express

Acct # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

3 digit code on back \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Mission: My Sisters' Place.. committed to ending homelessness and empowering women, families, and others in Greater Hartford to achieve independence and stability in their community by providing housing and supportive services.**

*Ending Homelessness.. Supporting independence..  
Transforming lives*

