



# NEWS & NOTES

NEW LONDON HOMELESS HOSPITALITY CENTER ■ FALL 2012

19 Jay St., New London, CT 06320 ■ 860-439-1573 ■ [www.nlhhc.org](http://www.nlhhc.org)

## NLHHC Moving to State Pier Road in 2013

NLHHC is in a final push to complete a \$1 million capital campaign that will allow the shelter and daytime hospitality center to move to new quarters on State Pier Road next year.

We bought the property – the former church and rectory of the Sts. Peter and Paul Polish National Congregation – last December.

With gifts of \$800,000 in hand and another \$50,000 in commitments, work has begun to convert the church to a 35-bed shelter and hospitality center. Renovations to the rectory are complete; we are already using it for offices and meeting space.

The gifts include a \$500,000 grant from the Connecticut Department of Social Services plus leadership gifts from Lawrence + Memorial Hospital and the Palmer Fund. A Campaign



Committee created by NLHHC's Board of Directors is managing the fundraising with Executive Director Cathy Zall. Just over \$150,000 is still to be raised.

The lower number of beds on State Pier Road – there are 50 at St. James – will require NLHHC to work closely with local officials to reduce shelter needs, especially in cold winter weather.

**For more about the new site, see page 3.**

## You're invited! Open House Is Sept. 16

Thank you for all you do for NLHHC! Please join us for an open house and our first-ever appreciation potluck lunch from 1–4 p.m. at our new site, 730 State Pier Road, on Sunday, Sept. 16.

Bring your family for an afternoon of good food and lots of fun. Check out construction progress, and meet other volunteers and friends of NLHHC.

Please bring a favorite dish to share. We'll provide drinks. To RSVP, contact Laura at 860-439-1573 or [volunteercoordinator.nlhhc@gmail.com](mailto:volunteercoordinator.nlhhc@gmail.com).

### Welcome to our New Newsletter

We've redesigned and relaunched our newsletter to make it easier for you to keep up with what's happening at NLHHC.

Look for it quarterly in your email or online.

Know of someone who should be on our mailing list? Have an idea for a story about a volunteer, guest or supporter? Have a comment or question? Email us at [volunteercoordinator.nlhhc@gmail.com](mailto:volunteercoordinator.nlhhc@gmail.com).



## Homeless to Hopeful Rocks Ocean Beach

*The Rock 'n' Soul Revue kept dancers on their feet at the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Homeless to Hopeful gala Sept. 7. Proceeds benefit NLHHC and the Covenant Shelter in New London.*

*Guests (insert, left to right), included Catherine Foley of the Covenant Shelter, Rep. Betsy Ritter, Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman, Sen. Andrea Stillman, Rep. Elissa Wright, and Cathy Zall of NLHHC.*

*For more photos, visit [www.facebook.com/NLHHC](http://www.facebook.com/NLHHC)*

## He's Giving Hope to Others

Leonard Washington has always worked hard. He grew up in Harlem and took college classes before serving in the Navy for 20 years.

After retiring from the Groton base he worked at an office supply store, the commissary, a restaurant and a car rental company. That job ended when he was laid off, but after 11 months Leonard found work in manufacturing as a grinder. Six weeks later, he was injured.

After disability and unemployment ran out, bills started piling up. He was evicted when he became three months late on his rent. The manager of his building apologized. Leonard had lived there 12 years and was a good tenant.

"The first week I was dumbfounded. I didn't know who to turn to. I didn't want to burden anyone," Leonard says. So he slept in his car. Then a social services worker referred him to the Homeless Hospitality Center. He stayed in the shelter three weeks and then lived in HHC's transitional housing

*"The first week I was dumbfounded.  
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for veterans for two months. Leonard found an apartment and now works in the shelter and daytime hospitality center while taking courses in mechanical engineering.

"People here love me and I love them back," Leonard says. He gives hope to those he meets. How? He tells them his story.



*Leonard Washington was in the Navy for 20 years. He always worked hard and never imagined he'd be homeless.*

## CHEFA Awards NLHHC \$55,000 for 'Rapid Rehousing'

The Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA) has awarded NLHHC \$55,000 for a program that seeks to move people back to permanent housing more quickly – or even keep them from losing housing in the first place.

With the right resources, NLHHC is confident that it can reduce the risk of homelessness. The grant provides funds to prove it.

By moving people out of the shelter more quickly, NLHHC can serve more people with the same number of beds.

The program also reduces the risk of future homelessness because it keeps people connected to their support network, reduces the trauma of



*Jeanette Weldon (2nd from right), general manager of CHEFA, presents NLHHC a check for \$55,000. With her are Cathy Zall and two guests.*

homelessness, limits the impact on physical health and gets people back to work more quickly.

The program provides financial assistance and services to prevent people from becoming homeless and help quickly re-house those who are already homeless and stabilize their lives. The services that are provided depend on the needs of the individual.

## State Pier Road: A More Holistic Approach to Fighting Homelessness

NLHHC's new location on State Pier Road will give us something we've never had: space to provide holistic support – including basic healthcare – for our guests.

After renovations are completed in 2013, our daytime hospitality center and a 25-bed shelter will operate from the former church. The building will also house a health outreach clinic managed by the Community Health Center and a 10-bed respite shelter. The clinic and respite shelter are key components of the new site, allowing us to offer comprehensive services to our guests.

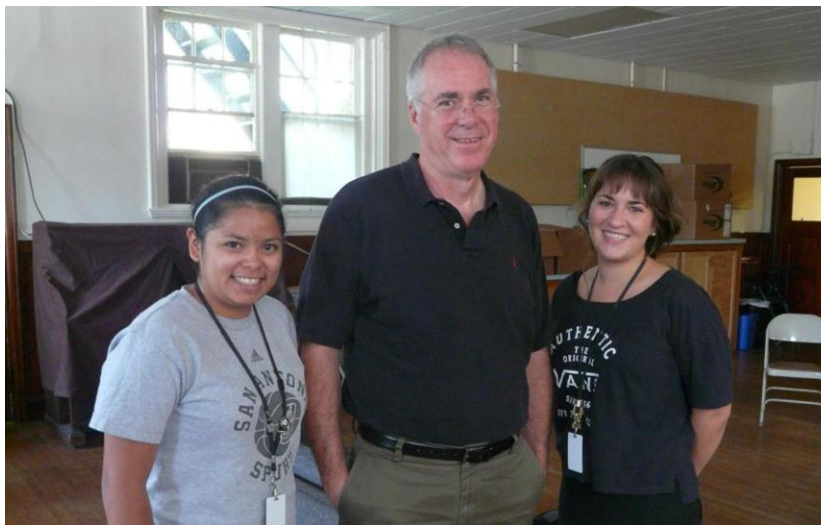
The clinic will help those facing acute and chronic health challenges, from a bout of the flu to cancer and heart disease. The respite shelter will provide

shelter to those who were recently discharged from a hospital, are receiving chemotherapy treatments or have other medical challenges.

We will continue to support our guests by helping them with housing options and coordinating mental health counseling, connections to substance abuse treatment, job search support and assistance in securing benefits.

This holistic approach is most effective in responding to the crisis of homelessness in an individual's life, and it has helped us gain significant support for the project.

The lessons we learn here could, we think, help inform the national debate on healthcare reform.



***New staff:** Noe Cárdenas, left, and Laura Edelstein, right, are our new VISTA workers. Noe, a recent graduate of Texas A&M, is the Help Desk manager. Laura, a graduate of William Patterson, is the volunteer coordinator. In the middle is Kenton Robinson, the new community engagement manager.*

## You can help

Your support gives the homeless of southeastern Connecticut shelter – and the hospitality, services and follow-up that ensure they find and keep permanent housing.

To give, please go to:

[www.nlhhc.org](http://www.nlhhc.org)

Or send a check to:

NLHHC

19 Jay St.

New London, CT 06320

## Announcements

**Do you speak Spanish** and have a few hours to volunteer as a translator for our guests? Email Noe Cárdenas at [helpdesk.nlhhc@gmail.com](mailto:helpdesk.nlhhc@gmail.com).



**Keep up with us on Facebook!** You'll find the latest news and photos on our page at [www.facebook.com/NLHHC](http://www.facebook.com/NLHHC).

**28 cadets from the Naval Academy** helped with painting, cleaning and yard work on July 8. View photos at <http://goo.gl/ldCZY>

**Make a personal difference** in the life of a homeless person: Volunteer to serve on NLHHC's Help Desk. You'll help guests navigate their way as they apply for jobs, look for housing and plan the next steps in their lives.

**Open House and Potluck is Sept. 16.** Be sure to stop by the new site at 730 State Pier Road. Please bring a dish to share; we'll provide the drinks. Meet other volunteers and supporters and see the new site. Bring your family and tell your friends!

### **Donate your unneeded furniture and housewares.**

NLHHC's Homeward Bound Treasures thrift store on Golden Street is always looking for donations. We'll pick up your items! Call 860-444-8800. In the market for some treasures of your own? The store is open Tuesday-Saturday, noon-6 p.m.

**Update your address.** If you're changing your email or home addresses, please let us know. Email [volunteercoordinator.nlhhc@gmail.com](mailto:volunteercoordinator.nlhhc@gmail.com).

**The shelter needs the following items.** All donations are welcome. For more information call Laura at 860-439-1573.

- Men's and women's socks, underwear and T-shirts of all sizes, long underwear, hats and gloves.
- Coffee, sugar and powdered creamer.
- Peanut butter and jelly.
- Ramen noodles/Cup-O-Noodles.
- Toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, travel-size shampoo, conditioner and lotion.