



# NEWS & NOTES

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

## Lace Up Your Sneakers and Sign Up!

If you haven't heard yet, it's time for the 6th Annual Walk for the Homeless. For the past five years the community has hit the pavement for this great cause. And now The Walk has grown into the NLHHC's largest fundraising event! Last year alone, we raised over \$14,000 to help the NLHHC attack homelessness in New London!



### Keep in Touch

We are now publishing our newsletter quarterly via email and online.

If you know of someone who should be on our mailing list or have an idea for a story about a volunteer, guest or supporter, let us know.

If you yourself would like to volunteer, let us know that too. You can email us at: [volunteercoordinator.nlhhc@gmail.com](mailto:volunteercoordinator.nlhhc@gmail.com). Or Call Laura @ 860.439.1573

This year the goal is almost double! So far the fundraising and sponsorship committees have been successful in their efforts. We hope they continue to have great success as they work with local businesses and community members. This year, The Walk will take place on Sunday, April 28th, at 2 p.m. The Walk will begin and end at The Polish Church (our new facilities) located at 327 Huntington Street. The event will kick off with speakers and festivities in the parking lot. The walk route will pass local landmarks including the shelter at 76 Federal Street, downtown Bank Street and the Day-time Hospitality Center at 19 Jay Street. We hope to have a huge crowd and lots of walkers supporting this important fundraiser. In conjunction with Connecticut College's Holleran Center for Public Policy, NLHHC'S staff looks forward to walking with each and every one of you!

### For More Information :

Visit our websight: [www.nlhhc.org](http://www.nlhhc.org)

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/NLHHC>

For general information call Laura at:

860.439.1573

For sponsorship call Margaux at:

860.232.2886



Visit us  
at

The Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.chamberect.com/>

We are new  
members!!!



## “HALLELUJAH”

An Interview With Miss Marilyn Glover: By Laura Edelstein

You would have to look very hard to find a person around the Hospitality Center that didn't know Miss Marilyn. Sitting in the office behind the front desk she radiates sunshine and love. Since 2004 she has served the homeless community of the NLHHC with all her heart. No matter what, bad day or good, she keeps her beautiful smile. When you ask her how she is, her response is always the same, “I'm blessed and highly favored! Praise Jesus, Hallelujah!”

Sitting with her in her office, it's apparent that she truly is blessed and highly favored. She is proud to have three beautiful children, James, Brittany, and Kaseem, as well as a beautiful grandson, Zion. She has the utmost respect of her coworkers and the local Christian community. She is kind, patient and forgiving, all qualities that make her perfect for her job as the NLHHC's Office Manager and Administrative Assistant.

Unfortunately, life hasn't always been so kind to her. She tells me with poise and grace about her past suffering with an addiction, which led to her homelessness.

She explained to me how during this time she often felt disrespect. Knowing all too well how this wears on one's psyche, she vowed in her 15 years of recovery to “treat everyone, no matter what walk of life they come from, with respect.” As her coworker, I am amazed on a daily basis at how respectful and caring she is. She treats everyone, homeless or not, with respect and love. “Recovery to me is about giving back [to others] what was freely given to me.” She is truly an inspiration to the staff, guests and volunteers that walk our halls.



She spoke freely about how she loves her job here at the Hospitality Center. When I asked about her favorite part of the job, it took her a few minutes to respond. With a big smile, she told me she loves it when someone comes into her office with good news. “The look on someone's face when they tell me they got a job or are being housed or when they have been out of the shelter for a while and they come [to visit] still doing good...that's what makes it all worth it.”

If you haven't met Miss Marilyn yet, I encourage you to stop by the Hospitality Center and visit with her. That is if she's not too busy!

### **Spring Has Sprung for the Men's Group!!**

Have you noticed your yard looking frightful after the snow melted? Are you worried about how you are going to care for your property this spring? Look no further than our very own Men's Group. The group meets Thursday evenings at the shelter from 6:30–7:30. Starting in early April, the Men's Group is conducting spring cleanups in the greater New London area. The men can help with yard work, planting, and other housework. They are asking for a small donation for supplies and travel expenses.

For more information contact:

Lonnie Graham @ 806.625.5127 or

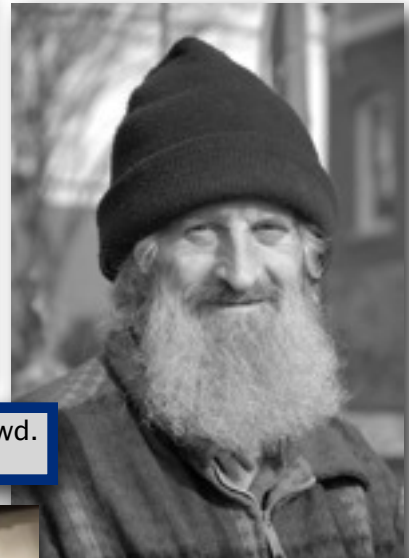
Laura Edelstein @ 860.439.1573





## The Art Show "Right Next Door"

We want to thank photographer Alex Matthiessen and oil painter Elisabeth McGinn and the staff at the Gallery at Firehouse Square for their wonderful execution of the fundraiser, "Right Next Door: Images of the Homeless and Those Who Help Them." The fundraiser was wildly successful, raising over \$5,000. The art show featured the artwork of Alex and Elisabeth and a video documentary filmed and produced by East Lyme High School. The show ran from March 10 through March 27. One hundred percent of proceeds was donated to the Homeless Hospitality Center of New London and St. Vincent de Paul Place in Norwich.



"Howard" by Alex Matthiessen was one of the photos that sold during the silent auction.

Kenton, NLHHC's Community Engagement Manager, speaks to the crowd.



Al speaks to the crowd while John Johnson, proprietor of the gallery looks on.



Leonard holds court next to his portrait at the opening of the "Right Next Door" display of photographs and portraits. He posed with Elisabeth for this photo.

For more information or to view some of the artwork  
Friend the gallery on Facebook!

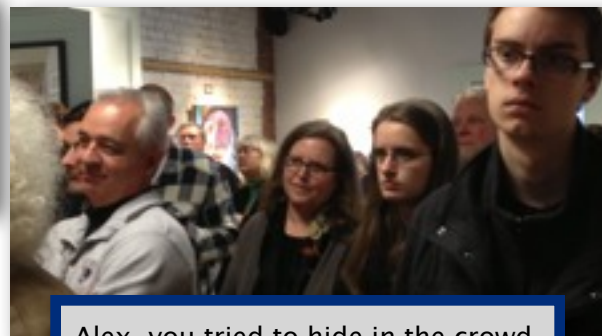
<https://www.facebook.comthegalleryatfirehousesquare>



A big THANKS to...  
**THE GALLERY  
AT FIREHOUSE SQUARE**

**From:**

**The entire NLHHC Family!**



Alex, you tried to hide in the crowd but we found you! (Second from the left)





## Your Generosity is Overwhelming!

### Donations Are Always Welcome!

For more information call the drop-in center

860.439.1573

For furniture donations call Homeward Bound

860.444.8800



### Coast Guard OCS Cleans the Hospitality Center

The Hospitality Center was sparkling clean after the United States Coast Guard Academy's Officer Candidate School visited. On the first Sunday of March, close to 60 cadets invaded the shelter to blitz clean. They moved furniture and climbed to great heights making sure every inch of the shelter was spotless! They did everything from scrubbing the walls to tightening coat hangers. In a matter of a few hours, the shelter was transformed into a sanctuary for both the guests and staff!



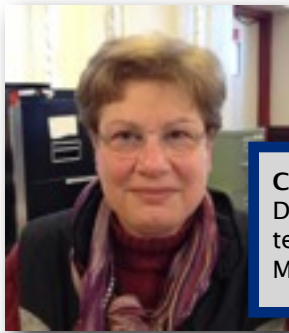
Citizens Bank stopped by with a big check on March 5th!

Thank you Swaranjit Singh Khalsa and the Connecticut Sikh Association for your generous donation of hats, gloves and personal care items!





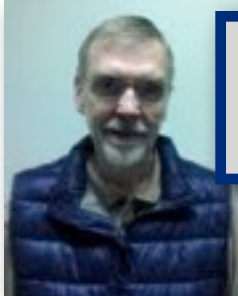
## Meet the New Staff And Some Not so New Staff Too!



**Clare Evento** worked for the state Department of Developmental Services for over 32 years. She joins our team as the Housing for Health Coordinator and Case Manager. She lives in Waterford with her husband, Nick.

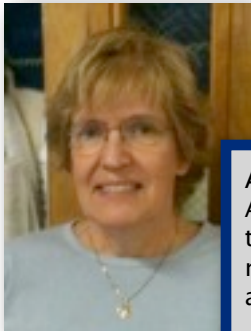


**George Skipper** is excited to join our team as shelter support staff and on our maintenance team!



**Dave Lang** joins us as our IT guy! Since his arrival, he has brought the hospitality center into 2013! It's great to have our computers running so well!

**Corey Steward** joins our staff as a part of our maintenance team! He loves helping those around him. He looks forward to working with others and giving back to the community that helped him in his time of need.



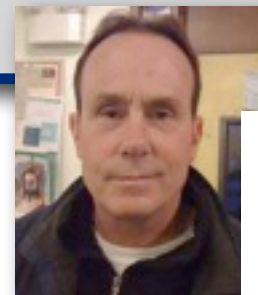
**Ann Lang** joined our staff in the Fall of 2012 as our Housing Assistant. Prior to joining our staff, Ann volunteered with us at the front desk and worked on the help desk! She is also happily married to Dave Lang! Their family has been a wonderful addition to the team.

### Dear NLHHC Volunteers,

The New London Homeless Hospitality Center would like to take a moment to recognize our wonderful volunteers! Without your constant support and hard work, we could not do all that we do! The staff and I often get so busy we forget to be appreciative of your dedication. We get caught up in the day to day chaos and often forget to say thanks. Please know you are loved and deeply thanked, from the bottom of our hearts. I can't express in words how lucky I feel to work alongside such inspiring dedicated people. This job is often thankless. So please take a moment out of your day to feel proud! You are amazing!!

With my deepest gratitude,  
Laura Edelstein  
Volunteer Coordinator

**Andy Nobles** is a retired Naval Master Chief. He has worked at the shelter for the last three years as a member of our nighttime shelter support team. Andy joins the daytime staff as the property manager for the Broad Street, Mountain Avenue and Stewart Street houses. He will also be working with our veterans.







## Double Take

By Seannah-Rea Prue

I know you see me  
standing  
in the way of all your  
dreams.  
All your life's desires  
sit waiting by the  
streams.

All your aspirations  
and what you wish to  
be,  
the way you see your  
future  
set drifting on the  
sea.

You know I see you  
standing  
directly by my side.  
Every day's a  
struggle,  
you try to swallow  
your pride.

Every ounce of energy  
you put towards me  
and you  
can never just be  
good enough  
for me to pursue.

We know they see us  
standing  
together day by day.  
They say we'll never  
make it,  
say it's pointless to  
stay.

We're two different  
people  
who will never  
understand  
just exactly what it  
takes  
to stand hand in  
hand.

They know we see  
them standing  
gawking and amazed,  
thinking to  
themselves  
how we must be  
crazed.

But when you really  
love someone,  
it's not how much you  
fight.  
It's how you feel when  
they're gone  
and when they're in  
your sight.

Meanwhile  
at the new  
shelter ...



Construction  
is  
underway!



## Save the Date

**\*April 28th\***

6th Annual Walk for the Homeless

**\*September 2013\***

Homeless to Hopeful Dance - TBA



Grand  
Opening  
Fall 2013!

